

Steppin' ut *News!*

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

VOLUME 25
ISSUE 07

ARTS • CULTURE • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY

MAY/JUNE
2025



Lifelines Counseling Services

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ABOUT STEPPIN' OUT

STEPPIN' OUT is a subsidiary of LEGACY 166 Inc., a non-profit organization with a Mission to provide Educational, Career, and Economic opportunities for Youth and the Underserved of Diverse Cultures; make available Cultural Activities for community participation; and deliver Quality of Life Skills Training through the Arts and Community Collaborations.

STEPPIN' OUT provides quality of life information to the community in each issue at no cost to the reader. Even though STEPPIN' OUT is not a "hard news" publication, the columns submitted by our contributors touch on subjects that address a wide range of community and cultural issues. Regular features include articles on health, history, entertainment, and finance. Articles on fashion, literature, and technology are some of the subjects that are occasionally featured.

STEPPIN' OUT and LEGACY 166 Inc. will continue to expand their roles in the community by offering internships and career training, and youth development and work opportunities. Volunteers are always needed with this mission.

STEPPIN' OUT Welcomes your comments and suggestions regarding this publication. For information on advertising, to comment on subject matter, or volunteer your services... PLEASE CONTACT US...

Steppin' Out
PO Box 6781 • Mobile AL 36660
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CONTRIBUTORS



DEBRA BRAGGS
Featured Column
LIVING IN BLISS



DORSHELL FERRELL
Featured Column
**MASSAGE: THE DESSERT
IN HEALTHCARE**



TOMMY GREEN
Featured Column
BLACK LIVES MATTER



PAULETTE HORTON
Featured Column
MOMENTS IN TIME



TANENE JACKSON
Featured Column
LOCS OF SOUL



ELICIA OLIVERA JAXON (EJ)
Featured Column
**BLAQUE HISTORY
24/7/365**



ARTHUR MACK
Featured Column
**THINKING OUTSIDE
OF THE BOX**



BETTY MACK SHINN
Featured Column
VIEWPOINT



JOSEPH MITCHELL PHD
Featured Column
**BLACK AMERICAN
EDUCATION**



LISA JOHNSON
Featured Column
**EXPRESSIONS:
RIGHT OR WRONG**



NATHANIEL PATTERSON
Featured Column
CONNECT TO SUCCESS



TRACY NEELY
Featured Column
**CREOLE HISTORY
HIGHLIGHTS**



MEMPHIS VAUGHAN JR
Featured Column
**TAKING MOBILE
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

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.



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

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

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

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

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

GREG CYPRIAN
Publisher/Editor
STEPPIN' OUT NEWS



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Steppin' Out News
Will Drop...

JUNE 2025





Taking Mobile to the Next Level Memphis Vaughan Jr.

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

Doing Your Part —A CALL TO ACTION—

These days, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. We're constantly hit with negativity — lies, misinformation, distractions, injustice, and so much more. At times, it may feel like too much to handle, leaving us frustrated, exhausted, or even ready to give up.

But instead of shutting down, we can take action. Here are some common concerns people raise—and what you can do about them.

Distressed About Changes, or Lack Of, In Your Community?

Get involved with your city and county leadership. Attend meetings on new developments, rezoning, and other changes. Don't wait until construction starts to speak up—be proactive.

Feeling Bored and Like There's Nothing To Do?

Explore your city! Use social media, the internet, or word-of-mouth to discover new activities. Visit local attractions, try something different, and travel when you can. Upset about the political situation? Speak up! Call, write, or email your elected officials—whatever it takes to make your voice heard. Protest, boycott, and spend your money with businesses that support your values and community.

Our Education System Is Terrible and Our Young People Are Lost?

Get involved. Volunteer with schools, community programs, or sports organizations. Mentor someone, share your wisdom without judgment, and remember—we were young once, too.

Worried About Rising Crime?

Join or start a neighborhood watch. Engage with elected officials and advocate for crime prevention programs.

Frustrated With Unaffordable Housing and Gentrification?

Push for more affordable housing. Keep your neighborhood strong by maintaining properties and resisting easy buyouts. If possible, invest in housing yourself to preserve community ownership.

Our Restaurants and Businesses Don't Stay Around Long:

Support local businesses. Spend your money where it matters. Let businesses know when they're doing well—and when they're not. Spread the word and advertise in Steppin' Out.

Feel Out Of The Loop?

Get informed. Use the internet, the library, books, and reliable sources. Not everything will come easily—you have to put in the work.

Too Busy To Get Involved?

We make time for what we value. We find time to hang out, gossip, and indulge in distractions, yet often neglect positive and meaningful actions. Prioritizing what matters takes effort—but it's worth it.

I'm Distressed, Depressed, And Lonely:

Pray, get counseling, go to church. Come worship at Legacy Church @Toulminville-Warren at 2271 St. Stephens Road, at 10 am Sundays.♣



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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.

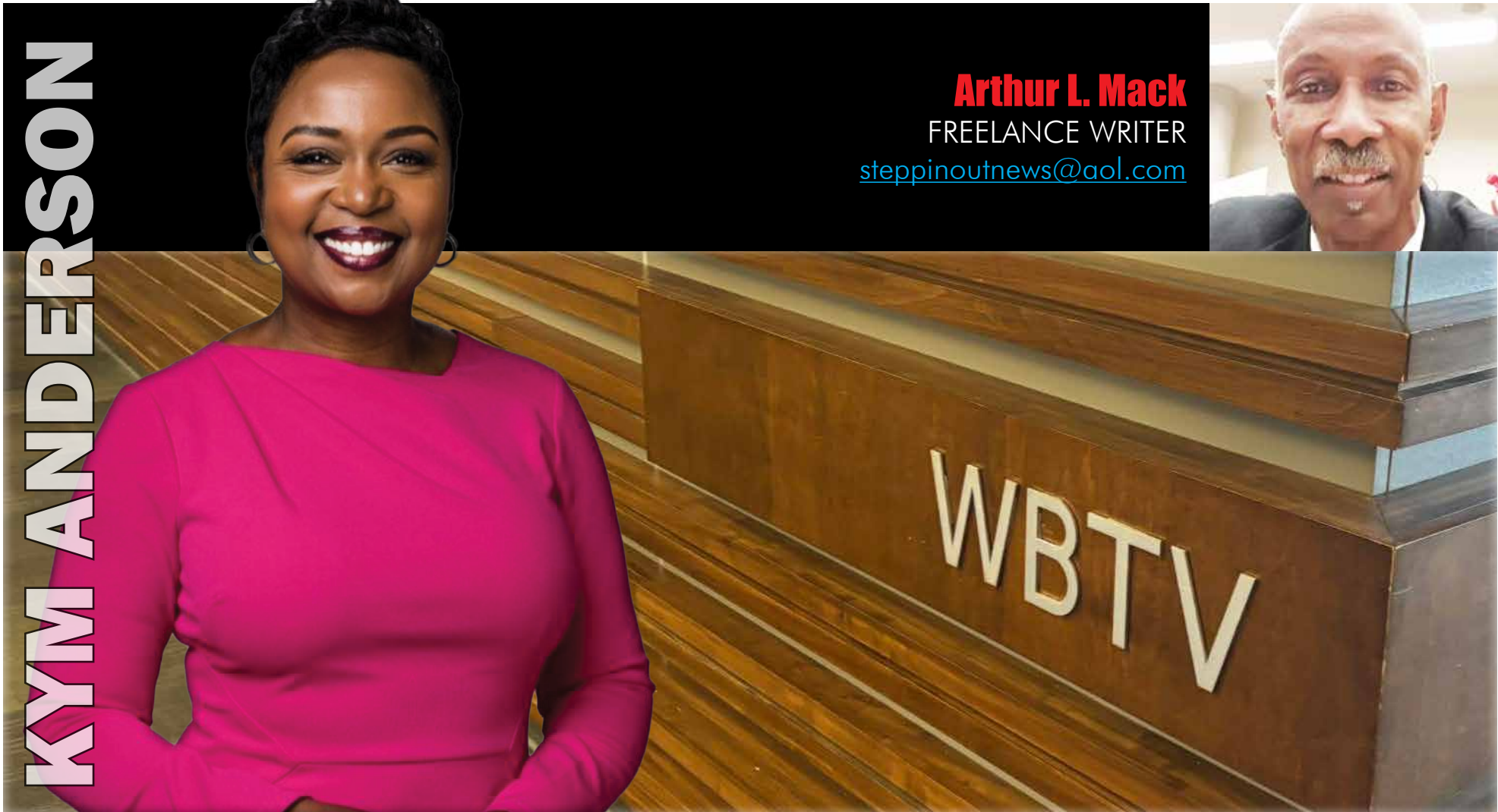
That means creating jobs that pay a living wage, providing education that prepares our children for the future, and leading with vision to chart a bold new path forward. With courage and action, we can build a city where everyone thrives.

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.**



Former WPMI Anchor – Now In Charlotte

Things will not be the same at WPMI — or for that matter, Mobile — without the presence of Kym Anderson. The veteran newscaster recently relocated to Charlotte N.C. after a nearly 18-year run at the news station. She is now at WBTV, an award-winning station legacy television station. Anderson will anchor the 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and the ‘On Your Side Show’ at 7 p.m. with Jamie Boles. “WBTV is owned by Gray Television,” she said “It’s actually the same company that owns FOX 10, so I’ll be with the Gray TV family now. It’s a great company. “I’ll be doing early evenings, so I won’t be doing late, late news. I’m really thankful about that. The 7 p.m. program I’ll be doing is a super advocacy-type show to where we fight for other people and to be helpful. I’m now looking forward to getting to know the people in the “Queen City!” Charlotte has so many opportunities for growth. I’m ready for the challenge.”

Anderson reflected on her time in Mobile. “Mobile embraced me from day one,” she said. “The people in the city have shown true southern hospitality for not only me, but my children. For that I’m forever grateful. I’ve worked with some of the best people in the industry and have made lifelong friends at NBC 15. My daughter was four months old when I moved here. She’s 18 now and about ready to graduate from high school.”

One of the things that made Mobile memorable for Anderson, a native of Riverside, California, was the people she became acquainted with during her time in the Port City. “I grew up in Southern California, and there they don’t have that Southern hospitality,” she said. “It’s just something about it; it’s like no other. People welcomed me from the very beginning, they were very warm, very loving, and embraced not just me, but my children. When I moved here, I didn’t know anybody. It was a big move, and being a younger mother with three kids, everybody just stepped in and embraced my entire family.”

Prior to her stint at WPMI, Anderson, a graduate of Oakwood University in Huntsville, worked at WHNT in Huntsville, as well as

WJSU, so she had a taste of Alabama prior to moving to Mobile. “My parents went to school there (at Oakwood), and my brothers went there, along with nieces and nephews,” she said.

During her time at WPMI, Anderson covered many interesting stories, particularly those who focused on people seeking help.

“There were so many, but I always liked the stories where we advocated for people and help make a difference,” she said. “There was one story where we had a lady call us about her daughter running off in the middle of the night with a young man. She was afraid her daughter may have been trafficked. We were able to put her in contact with the right people who were able to find her, and she was able to get her daughter back. Many times, I advocated for stories that would help people because we know, especially with African-Americans, they’re painted in a negative light. If we can shine a positive light on them, that’s what I want to do.”

In recent years, despite a shortage of staff, Anderson and WPMI continued to provide viewers with quality news, especially when the station now has only the fourth of the staff as other news stations in the Mobile area. And now, since she has left, she said the station will continue with the same quality of work. “We had a lot of cutbacks with the company that owns it,” she said. “Since I’ve been employed there, the station has been owned by three different companies. Each time a company buys the station they end up having cutbacks. But even with the cutbacks, we have an amazing staff — we were the little engine that could. We just made it work and they’re going to continue to make it work. They’re dedicated journalists who really give 150 percent, and there’s no better staff. They’re really amazing. It’s a miracle because that shows the dedication to that staff and the quality of that staff. Most people would not be able to handle the work that our reporters do, but we have a news director who works very hard and makes sure we don’t miss anything.”♣

BLACK WOMEN LOST 106,000 Jobs In April

But the Impact Goes Beyond Headlines

Source: HelloBeautiful
<https://share.newsbreak.com/d519183e>

DID YOU KNOW...

- The City Council of Philadelphia gave an apology because in 1985 the Philadelphia Police Department **DROPPED A BOMB** on the headquarters of MOVE, **a Black liberation group! The bombing** resulted in the death of **11 people and the destruction of 61 homes leaving 250+ people homeless!** SOURCE: <https://thegrio.com/2020/05/14/philadelphia-city-council-apologizes-move-bombing/>
- In 1926, Winston-Salem NC, 13 men used their resources to create a **BLACK-OWNED/OPERATED** transportation company... **SAFE BUS COMPANY**, during the Jim Crow era when Blacks could not use White-Owned transportation services. By the 1940s, Safe Bus Company had become the largest Black-Owned transportation company in the world!

FORMER NBA PLAYER MAGIC JOHNSON AND WNBA PLAYER ANGEL REESE HAVE LAUNCHED A FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM AIMED AT HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.



MEET THE BLACK ENTREPRENEUR WHO OPENED HOUSTON'S **FIRST BLACK-OWNED DRIVE-IN MOVIE THEATER.**





CITY OF MOBILE Media Alert

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f WWII
166

The 92nd Division Buffalo Soldiers of WWII Film Festival presented by Legacy 166

JUNE 07 @2:00 PM

We invite you to the Ben May Main Library
in Bernheim Hall for a screening of
"The Wereth Eleven" (2011, 59 minutes).



The 92nd
Film

Satur

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in Bernh
"The Were

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

LEGACY 166
Passing Our Heritage to Future Generations!



VIEWPOINT Betty Mack Shinn

Black on Black Crime is a cringe worthy expression from my perspective. This expression is used by the educated and uneducated; adapted and adopted conveying, I propose the insidious nature of racism. Justified as: y'all kill each other, so why get angry when the police kill Black people. Black on Black Crime still fails miserably in explaining the murder, death and brutality experienced by innocent Black people: young, male, female, working, middle aged, poor or wealthy we are all subject at any time and place to being killed, assaulted or abused by the police. Police kill Blacks at disproportionate rates.

Statistically whites commit more crimes than Blacks. Yet, Black people receive harsher and longer penalties and sentences. Criminal Justice experts know -- crimes are committed overwhelmingly by people who know each other. Husbands, wives, cousins, friends, neighbors, co-workers. All ethnic groups, and people of all social status commit crimes. No group is exempt from committing crimes. It is a well-documented fact: People commit crimes against people they know. Promises of reducing crime – is political gold. It is not an accident politicians manipulate crime data since it's low hanging fruit in getting voters' attention. Each campaign cycle, local, state, and federal; prey on our fears, founded and unfounded. Each forum mentions the topic of crime. Candidates promise stricter laws, longer jail sentences, and no hesitation in filling jails to make us safe. More parks, quality recreation, higher wages, greater job opportunities, access to the internet, higher paid teachers, healthcare, decent housing, will produce greater results in creating a safer society for this wealthy nation. Punishment alone is not the answer. The U.S. incarcerates more people than any nation in the world.

Black on Black Crime is another double standard and overused term. Another shameful and high watermark for Black people who are forever being labeled and draped a glaring negative light. Hopefully the use of this term will diminish. Especially when what is certain is that: Crime is Crime.♣

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New Director



The Mobile County Public Library Board of Trustees has announced that Jurée Hall has been appointed the new Director of the Mobile Public Library system.

Ms. Hall brings a wealth of leadership experience from her post at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland, where she served as Chief of Neighborhood Libraries, managing services for one of Maryland's largest and most diverse library systems. She will officially begin her duties on June 01, 2025.

Hall holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Valdosta State University. She began her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from the University of South Alabama and finished at Georgia State University.

Her civic involvement includes a passion for education and literacy. Hall formerly served as Chair of the Special Education Advisory Panel for the Georgia Department of Education. She is a member of the American Library Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

"I'm excited to return to a community that is very near and dear to me. It is an honor to help the Mobile community continue to grow and to provide leadership and support to our public library system to ensure access to all for lifelong learning."

—Jurée Hall

in the NEWS!

NATIONAL
STATE
LOCAL

White House adviser Stephen Miller, one of the authors of Project 2025, has said that the Trump Administration is actively seeking to suspend the writ of habeas corpus. Habeas corpus allows individuals held in custody to challenge the legality of their detention before a court of law...Other Trump news includes the administration asking the Supreme Court to end humanitarian parole for 500,000 people from 4 countries, to impose a 100% tariff on "any and all" movies produced in "foreign lands", proposing to eliminate Section 8 Housing Vouchers and reducing Federal Housing Assistance, and cutting funding for and eliminating the National Endowment for Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, and has already initiated the removal of exhibits from the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture beginning with Black Excellence Artifact removals...The first group of white South Africans that were granted refugee status by the Trump administration after the administration's claim that members of the country's Afrikaner minority were victims of "racial discrimination"...The Justice Department has terminated a sewage settlement negotiated by the Biden Administration and officials in Alabama for wastewater treatment for majority Black communities in the Black Belt. The project was hailed as the first time that federal civil rights laws were used to ease the impact of environmental racism but was called an "illegal DEI and environmental justice policy" by the current administration...The Federal Railroad Administration has ruled that a project proposed by the Alabama Port Authority will not affect historic properties in Africatown. The Chickasaw Lead Line project would add a siding to an existing track but, Africatown residents and organizations are concerned about further encroachment into their community. One area has been identified as where the shipyard that built the Slaveship Clotilda was constructed...Amtrak's Mardi Gras Service will this summer serving Mobile and Coastal Mississippi to New Orleans with connections twice daily between Mobile, Pascagoula, Biloxi, Gulfport, Bay St. Louis, and New Orleans. Connections can be made to Memphis, Chicago, Atlanta, New York, Houston, San Antonio, Tucson, and Los Angeles...American Cruise Lines will make Mobile a Port of Call in March 2026 with its ship the American Symphony as part of a new Gulf Coast Cruise itinerary. The eight-day cruise travels from New Orleans to Pensacola, Florida and will include stops at several ports along the Gulf Coast...Mobile native, comedian, and TV Host W. Kamau Bell, winner of the third season of Celebrity Jeopardy, donated \$183 thousand of his winnings to teachers in Mobile and Oakland, California for classroom resources...Recently, two Alabama cities were listed in the Top Ten Cities with the Highest Obesity Rates in the Country. Birmingham was ranked 9th, while Mobile was ranked 3rd with 35% of adults classified AA obese...And finally, Feeding Alabama, encourages citizens to celebrate this Mother's Day the Strength of WIC in Alabama. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a lifeline for many providing essential nutrition, education, and support during critical times in a mother's and child's life. Learn how to pass this vital information to others by visiting the official WIC website at: <https://www.Alabamapublichealth.gov/wic/>.

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BLACK AMERICAN EDUCATION

Joseph Mitchell PhD
CITIZEN MUSICIAN & POLITICIAN



The federal government is composed of three branches: the legislative branch, which carries the responsibility for making laws; the judicial branch, which carries the responsibility for interpreting the laws; and the executive branch, which carries the responsibility for enforcing laws.

Separation of powers is a fundamental principle of government where the power is divided among different branches, typically legislative, executive, and judicial. This division prevents any single branch from becoming too powerful and potentially tyrannical. Each branch has its own distinct powers and responsibilities, and they are also designed to check and balance each other's actions. Most state governments follow this model.

The book "Who Rules America?" by G. William Domhoff explores the idea that a power elite, composed of the corporate rich, dominates United States society and wields significant influence over government and policy. It examines how this elite uses various mechanisms, like think tanks and policy-planning groups, to shape policy and influence public opinion.

"Who Rules America?" is a book by G. William Domhoff that explores the concentration of power and wealth in the American upper class. It examines how power is distributed and wielded in the United States.

Robert A. Dahl's Who Governs? is a classic pluralist study which has had an important influence on American social science since the early sixties. \$41.86 · In stock. SAVE YO' \$\$\$!!

The recently elected President of these United States has FLIPPED TH' SCRIPT. He is vacating the powers and authorities of the legislative branch of government by simply ignoring that branch of government. He has obfuscating the responsibilities and duties of the judicial branch by threats, innuendos and blatantly being dismissive of court orders.

He is eroding and undermining the core structures of the United States government.

Dictators typically gain power through a variety of methods, including military coups, elections, or being appointed by a ruling party or hierarchy, and sometimes through inheritance. They often rely on force, fraud, and intimidation to seize control and maintain it through suppressing civil liberties and employing propaganda.

Regardless, as to who has been or is in some elected or appointed governmental position, this writer promotes the notion that the United States government and all state governments are organized and balanced like a house of cards. All components are positioned like Dominos.

This writer strongly suggests that readers began to stock their pantries with canned and non-perishable dry foods; prioritize you non-food purchases to include Clorox, bottled water, rubbing alcohol, and assorted antibiotics, ointments. Add a 50-unit first aid kit! ♣

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Prichard Public Library



May- June 2025 — Registration opens

May 19, 2025

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NAACP

National Gun Violence Awareness Days PROJECT WEAR ORANGE

"A CALL TO END GUN VIOLENCE"

The Mobile Chapter of the NAACP is hosting "A Call to End Gun Violence" in support of National Gun Violence Awareness Days on June 6th at Mobile Government Plaza, 205 Government Street, Mobile.

Every day, **125 people** lose their lives to gun violence in the United States, and hundreds more are wounded or traumatized. This June, communities across the country will come together for **WEAR ORANGE WEEKEND**, a movement dedicated to honoring survivors and advocating for a future free from gun violence. Wear Orange began in memory of **Hadiya Pendleton**, a young girl whose life was tragically cut short by gun violence in 2013. Her friends chose orange—the color hunters wear to protect themselves—as a symbol of safety and solidarity. Since then, the NAACP has championed the Wear Orange campaign as it has grown into a national movement, bringing together activists, survivors, and lawmakers to demand change.

This year, the public is invited to wear orange, attend local events, and raise awareness about the urgent need for gun violence prevention. In Mobile, the NAACP will host a Press Conference at Government Plaza on Government Street at 11:00 a.m., where community leaders, survivors, and advocates will share their stories and call for action.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- **Wear Orange on June 06 to Show Solidarity**
- **Join Local Events to Support Survivors and Demand Change**
- **Engage on Social Media use #Wear Orange to Spread Awareness**
- **Advocate for Responsible Gun Laws to protect Our Communities**

Gun violence is preventable, and together, we can create a safer future. Join us in honoring lives lost, supporting survivors, and demanding action. Gun violence remains a significant issue in the United States, with recent data highlighting its impact:

- * **Annual Gun Deaths:** Nearly **47,000 people** died from gun-related injuries in 2023, marking one of the highest totals on record.
- * **Daily Impact:** On average, **132 people** die from firearm-related injuries each day.
- * **Types of Gun Deaths:** More than half of firearm-related deaths are suicides, while over **40%** are homicides.
- * **Youth Impact:** Firearm injuries were the **leading cause of death** among children and teens aged **1-19** in 2022.
- * **State Variations:** Gun violence rates vary significantly by state, with some regions experiencing much higher firearm-related deaths.

Efforts to address gun violence include policy changes, community-based prevention programs, and advocacy for responsible firearm regulations.♣



The Dessert in Healthcare Dorshell Ferrell, RN, LMT



Therapeutic Massage offers many physical and mental health benefits: pain relief, stress reduction, improve circulation, increase metabolism, promote relaxation, sleep and enhance immune function. As a nurse and a massage therapist I will always encourage clients to see their primary care physician annually and on an as needed basis. It is very important to adhere to the specific care plan that your doctor has created for your individual healthcare needs. This include medication regimen, diet recommendations, necessary lab work and other diagnostic testing. The focus and desire are to maintain optimal health, restore health and rejuvenate the physical body. Before scheduling an appointment for a therapeutic massage, consult with your doctor.

A therapeutic massage offers many health benefits. I would like to discuss a few of them. Pain relief/reduction, massage can help with chronic and acute pain in muscles and joints by alleviating stiffness and aiding in more flexibility. Massage promotes relaxation by reducing symptoms of anxiety by delivering a calming effect on the mind and body. It improves blood circulation, helps increase blood flow, oxygen and nutrients to organs which is necessary for normal body functioning. Massage increases the motion and activity of the GI system. This promotes better digestion and elimination. It promotes sleep by relaxing the muscles, improving circulation and reducing stress. Lastly, massage can enhance/improve the immune system by reducing stress and improving lymphatic circulation.

The list goes on and on about the health benefits that receiving a therapeutic massage can do. This is what I'll be discussing in the upcoming articles. Therapeutic Massage does not take the place of normal healthcare as we know it: it's complimentary to your overall healthcare and well-being. This is why I call it "The Dessert in Healthcare" because it enhances. Therapeutic Massage, like dessert after your favorite meal.

I am Dorshell Ferrell, RN, LMT; owner of Peacock & Company, LLC and Harmony Health Essentials (non-profit)... Opening Soon!♣

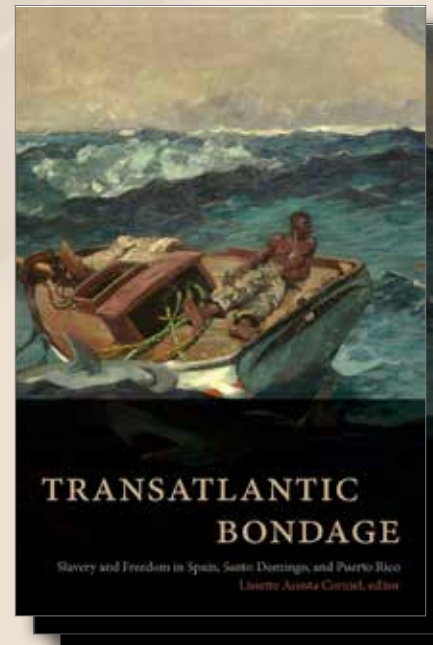


Literary Corner...



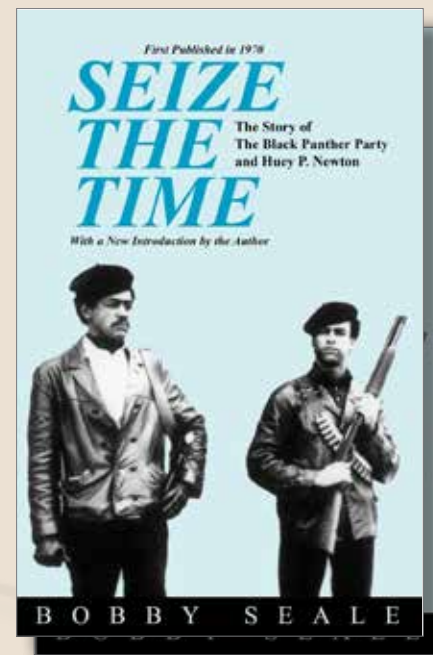
Lissette Acosta Corniel

TRANSATLANTIC BONDAGE is a collection of original and newly translated essays on slavery in Spain, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico. The book addresses the enslavement and experiences of Black Africans in Spain and the Black Caribbean, two of the earliest colonies. Spanning nearly 400 years and rooted in extensive archival research, this book sheds life on a number of relatively underexamined topics in these locales, including the development and application of slavery laws, disobedience and its consequences, migration, gender, family, lifestyles, and community building among the free Black population and white allies. The author is an assistant professor at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Her fields of interest are women, slavery, the Caribbean, Latin America, and digital Humanities. ♣



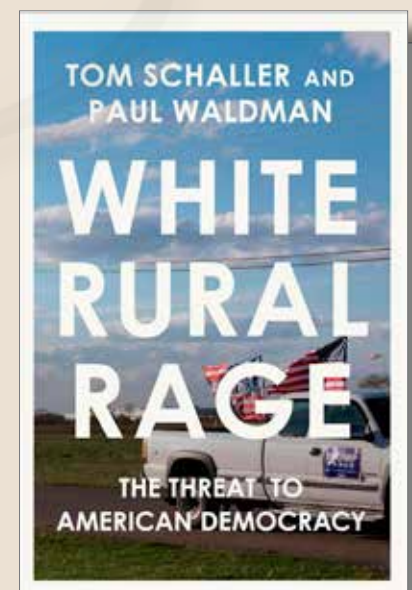
Bobby Seale

SEIZE THE TIME has been around since the 70's. Bobby Seale is a longtime activist and a co-founder of the Black Panther Party. This book is his first person account of the evolution of The Party as a national organization. Seize The Time shows the true colors of an American life. It not only shows the racial injustice but opens the eyes of the majority in our United States. This should be a required text in the U.S. school system, but definitely in Black homes. It wakes up those that think we have equality in this country. This book relates to the lives of all American citizens the same as it did in the heyday of The Party. It shows the institutional racism in its purest form, through the police and the government. ♣



Tom Schaller and Paul Wildman

WHITE RURAL RAGE is a "searing portrait and a damning take-down of America's proudest citizens, who are also the least likely to defend its core principles". White rural voters hold the greatest electoral sway of any demographic group in the United States, yet rural communities suffer from poor healthcare access, failing infrastructure, and severe manufacturing and farming job losses. Rural voters believe our nation has betrayed them, and to some degree, they're right. These authors explore why rural whites have failed to reap the benefits from their outsize political power and why, as a result, they are the most likely group to abandon democratic norms and traditions. Their rage, stoked by Republican politicians and the conservative media, now poses an existential threat to the United States. The authors show how vulnerable U.S. democracy has become to rural whites who, despite legitimate grievances, are increasingly inclined to hold racist and xenophobic beliefs, to believe in conspiracy theories, to accept violence as a legitimate course of political action, and to exhibit antidemocratic tendencies. ♣





BLAQUE HISTORY 24/7-365

Elicia "E J" Jaxon



Madam Eula McCleaney

The Woman Who Built an Empire—And the System That Stole It *A Reflection on Madam Eula McClaney's Legacy and the Cost of Unprotected Wealth*

EULA MCCLANEY WAS A FORCE.

Born in 1914 to sharecroppers in Alabama, she picked cotton as a child and left school after sixth grade. But she never stopped learning. With just \$125 and unshakable faith, she taught herself real estate and built an empire—owning land, hotels, hospitals, and rental properties across the country.

At a time when Black women weren't even allowed in boardrooms, Madam McClaney owned entire blocks. She lived in a 22-room mansion in Beverly Hills, right next to Hugh Hefner. She invested in oil wells. She was bold, brilliant, and decades ahead of her time.

But her legacy wasn't just in what she built—it was in what she gave. Millions in donations to HBCUs, churches, cancer research, and civil rights causes. She believed in Black ownership, in selfdetermination, and in building for future generations.

And yet, in 1986, when she passed away **without a will or trust**, the very system she had beaten turned against her.

The State of Alabama declared her "incompetent" *after death*—a legally dubious move that allowed them to seize her assets, liquidate her estate, and erase her wishes. Her wealth, meant to uplift her family and community, was scattered. Her empire—gone.

THIS WASN'T JUST A TRAGIC OVERSIGHT. IT WAS THEFT.

Disguised in legal language, it was a reminder that **BLACK WEALTH IS TOO OFTEN UNPROTECTED AND UNPRESERVED**, not because we don't earn it—but because we aren't taught how to defend it.

Let Madam McClaney's story be more than a footnote. Let it be a wake-up call. If you own anything—a home, a business, a savings account—you need to protect it.

WRITE A WILL. SET UP A TRUST. Talk to your loved ones.

Because wealth without protection is not a legacy. It's a target.

Eula McClaney built something extraordinary. Let's honor her by making sure it never happens again.

YOUR LEGACY MATTERS! GUARD IT... because no one else will. ♣



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Lifelines Counseling Services

Take the First Step.

Lifelines Counseling Services has a Vision to "Build strong individuals and families to sustain a healthier community."

LIFELINES' MISSION:

"To Help Individuals and Families Live More Productive Lives Through Counseling, Assistance, Referrals, and Education."

Lifelines values its clients by delivering expert, innovative approaches to life's challenges within the context of the client's cultural experience. Lifelines Counseling Services will always provide competent and thorough service to each. As a non-profit in Southwest Alabama, the organization realizes the people they help also rely on other agencies in this area. They work with other local agencies, local businesses, and community members to provide the best possible services needed.

Chandra Brown is the Executive Director of Lifelines, an organization that started in September of 1958 as Family Counseling Center of Mobile, Inc. Although it emerged as an entity under the United Way Agency umbrella, it evolved from two separate entities: Travelers Aid Society, a service of the Mobile YWCA in 1917, and Child and Family Services, established in 1940 to cater to children's institutions in Mobile.

Over the years, the center's focus expanded to encompass various facets of community well-being, including marital counseling, child guidance, delinquency prevention, and support for unmarried mothers.

TODAY, LIFELINES'S SERVICES INCLUDE:

- * Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health
- * Child Advocacy Center
- * Family Counseling
- * Consumer Credit Counseling
- * United Way 2-1-1
- * Victim Advocacy
- * Rape Crisis Center Resources
- * Ending the HIV Epidemic

Lifelines has proven itself to provide vital services to citizens in Southwest Alabama. If you'd like to help, they are always seeking volunteers that have an interest in giving back to the community. You can also contribute by making a donation in person at 705 Oak Circle Drive East, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.; by mail to Lifelines, P.O. Box 91068, Mobile 36691; or online via PayPal, Debit or Credit Card through their website at www.lifelinesmobile.org.

For more information, call 251-602-0909. Lifelines can also be found on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



Chandra Brown Stewart

Executive Director



Pictured on cover (l-r): Lifelines Staff Members Kelsey Bryant; Aleida Ponquinette, Tyra Wiley



INFANT & EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH

Preparing Our Children For Tomorrow

Staff are dedicated to supporting healthy emotional, cognitive and social development of children prenatal to eight years old. Their goal is to instill the principles of infant and young child mental health in all services for infants, toddlers, young children and their families, as well as expectant parents. They are working toward a future in which infant, toddler, and young child are supported within nurturing relationships, positive experiences, and supportive environments.

Childhood Mental Health Services

EARLY INTERVENTION

- * Head Start
- * Early Head Start
- * Developmental Screenings
- * Statistics of Early Intervention

MENTAL HEALTH

- * Anxiety
- * Stress
- * Life Changes

Child Advocacy Center

Helping to Change the World...One Child at a Time

The mission of the Child Advocacy Center is to be the community response in Mobile County to the problem of child abuse. Four of their Licensed Therapists and Advocates are housed at the Child Advocacy Center full-time along with other professionals, from various agencies. Their staff works alongside other community stakeholders to coordinate interviews, investigations, counseling, medical exams, court preparation and prosecution. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, please report Child Abuse and Neglect to your County Department of Human Resources:

- * Mobile County 251-450-7000
- * Baldwin County 251-945-2400
- * Clarke County 251-275-7001
- * Choctaw County 205-459-9701
- * Escambia County 251-809-2000
- * Washington Count..... 251-847-6100

For any emergencies, contact your local law enforcement or dial 9-1-1.

Family Counseling

The Family Counseling Center offers real solutions to real problems. Mental & Emotional Wellness & Anger Counseling. Lifelines counselors are trained to provide counseling as well as education. They help not only in current struggles but also in any future circumstances you may have. The thought is, by giving you the tools to handle issues that arise in your life you can work through current struggles with their help and future struggles on your own. Mental & Emotional Wellness needs can include internal or external factors:

- * Relationships with loved ones
- * Financial Issues
- * Work Environments
- * Coping Behaviors or skills
- * Work-Life Balance
- * Crisis or Traumatic Events

Lifelines offers free screening tools and helpful do-it-yourself tools. They also offer a Establishing Non-Violent Direction (END) program.

Family, Marital & Divorce Counseling

The Family Counseling Center offers services to help couples and children through marriage and divorce problems. Family counselors are trained to help couples walk through issues that could be causing marital strife as well as provide the couples with tools to solve these problems. Their innovative program for divorcing parents provides in-depth techniques for successfully moving their families through the transition of separation and divorce. Counseling helps individuals overcome marital discord, divorce, and parent-child conflicts.

Helping Children Cope With Divorce classes, A four hour educational program about the needs of children during and after the divorce of their parents. Parents learn how to help their children through this difficult time. Topics include typical reactions of children, skills that help children cope, visitation issues and pitfalls to avoid. The Domestic Relations Judge requires divorcing parents to attend.

Children & Adolescent Counseling

What causes the need for a child to come in for counseling? A traumatic event, A misunderstood mental illness or a developmental delay, or even facing a difficult family situation. If a child experiences one or more unsettling events in their life, the stress could be more than the child could understand and handle. Lifelines' child counseling focuses on breaking down problems so the child can understand and teaching the child the tools they need to progress in their life. Often times the child feels more comfortable talking with someone besides a parent or loved one, or simply can not express what they are going through.

COMMON ISSUES FOR

CHILD COUNSELING:

- * Divorce
- * Death of loved one and grief
- * Experiencing trauma
- * Mental health issues
- * School or peer bullying
- * Sexual, emotional or physical abuse
- * Substance Abuse
- * Alcohol or drug abuse

COMMON SIGNS OF DISTRESS

- * School grades dropping
- * Unwarranted aggression
- * Nightmares or sleep problems
- * Increased anxiety
- * Social isolation
- * Suicidal thoughts

Grief & Loss

Losing a loved one is never an event someone is prepared to experience in their life. Whether it is a complicated loss or an expected one, the pain is more than most people can bear on their own. Whether it is a complicated loss or an expected one, the pain is more than most people can bear on their own. Grief counseling offers people a way to cope with the grief and mourning and the major life changes associated with this.

HOMICIDE SURVIVORS - Their crisis services offers counseling to any family or friend of homicide victims and vehicular homicide victims.

SUICIDE SURVIVORS - Lifelines's crisis services offers counseling to any family or friend of loved ones who complete suicide.



CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING

Consumer Credit Counseling Service provides community members in Southwest Alabama with assistance in managing personal finances, both preventative - for those wanting to avoid serious financial problems, and rehabilitative - for those who are experiencing financial problems.

Budget & Debt Counseling

Budget Counseling can assist you in developing a realistic spending plan.

Credit Report Review - This can help clients better understand credit reports, identify information that is incorrectly reported, learn ways in which to improve credit scores, and to help determine if they have been victims of identity theft.

Debt Management Program - This program enables clients to make one payment through CCCS each month to repay unsecured debts to their creditors. In most cases, creditors are willing to reduce interest rates, and/or waive over the limit and late fees.

Bankruptcy Counseling - This is required for anyone filing bankruptcy. Sessions for individuals or couples are conducted one-to-one, via the phone or online. In Pre-filing counseling certified counselors assist clients in determining what options are available to them, the differences between Chapter 7 and Chapter 13, and other issues they need to consider. In Pre-discharge counseling certified counselors conduct. Online Bankruptcy Counseling Courses can be taken online.

Student Loan Counseling - Counseling will be provided by a certified Student Loan Counselor. Certified Counselors can provide information to assist in all areas of student loan counseling. A session will consist of a credit report pull to verify the status of the student loan debt and a review of the client's spending plan to determine the ability to pay or seek one of the 12 repayment plans for Federal Student Loan Debt. Private student loan options are very limited but counselor can discuss what assistance is available.

Identity Theft - This can be a serious issue for you and have a major impact on your credit score. Lifelines's certified counselors can help you develop a recovery plan, track your progress and help contact creditors. For more information please visit, www.identitytheft.gov.

Online Courses & Resources

Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Mobile offers online courses for you to complete at your convenience. These online courses can help you Take The First Step towards a better financial future. Please call 251-602-0011 if you have any questions or need assistance.

Online Courses

- * Online Bankruptcy Pre-filing Counseling (\$25.00) - This course is designed to educate clients about the bankruptcy process, then guides clients as they itemize their monthly expenses, debts, and assets.
- * Online Bankruptcy Pre-discharge Counseling (\$35.00) - This course covers budgeting, credit and credit scores, debt, contracts, insurance, consumer laws, and more in a friendly, easy-to-understand manner.
- * Online Homebuyers Counseling (\$75.00) - This course covers topics such as being financially ready to buy a house, getting pre-qualified, types of loans and insurance, building vs. buying a home, closing on your house, learning your responsibilities as a homeowner, and maintaining and repairing your home. It is the ideal education program to offer first-time buyers, or anyone buying a home who wants a refresher course about the home-buying process.
- * Rebuilding Your Credit (\$25.00) - This course educates clients about what's involved in rebuilding your personal finances and reestablishing your credit.
- * Smart About Money Online Learning Courses (\$0) - These courses are free and offered to help with creating a savings plan, helping with financial well-being, unexpected life events, housing, buying a vehicle and more.

HOUSING COUNSELING

Pre-Purchase Counseling - This is for clients who wish to become homeowners. Lifelines's HUD certified housing counselors will work with families and individuals on a one-on-one basis and assist them in determining if they are ready for homeownership or if they need help with debt repayment or saving for down payment and closing costs.

Post-Purchase Counseling - This program is for clients who are struggling to make ends meet after purchasing a home or need help in financial planning for maintenance and repairs.

Mortgage/Rental Delinquency Counseling - This program is for clients who are behind with mortgage or rent payments. Certified credit counselors work with lenders and landlords to negotiate repayment arrangements or other available options.

Home Buyer Seminars - Seminars are for clients who are required to attend this special 6-hour education and obtain a Certificate of Completion. To learn more about this program, call 251-602-0011. Certain lenders or loan programs require this education for reduced interest rates, no down payment or closing costs loans, or to waive mortgage insurance premiums.

Mobile County and City of Mobile Down Payment Assistance Program This program provides up to \$10,000 in down payment and closing costs assistance. Participants must meet income and other requirements. CCCS of Mobile provides one-to-one pre-purchase home buyer counseling and 6-hour home buyer seminars for those eligible for this assistance. The one-on-one counseling is required prior to attending the seminar.

UNITED WAY 2-1-1

Lifelines Counseling Services has a comprehensive database of resources in the area for all types of needs in the Southwest Alabama community. By partnering with the United Way of Southwest Alabama, we have established a website with all information about health & human services in 8 counties. United Way 2-1-1 provides free confidential information and referrals, 24 hours a day, to residents of Mobile, Clarke, Washington, Baldwin, Escambia, Conecuh, Choctaw, and Monroe Counties.

2-1-1 Initiatives:

- * A-RESET (Alabama Resources for Enrichment Self-Sufficiency Employability Training): Offering employment and training assistance for community members receiving TANF Benefits
- * CMS (Center of Medicaid Services): Offers affordable health insurance options for residents in the State of Alabama
- * ADPH (Alabama Department of Public Health) COVID: Offering assistance for community members impacted by COVID
- * UW Ride United: Offering transportation options for community members in need
- * ASDOE (Alabama State Department of Education): A collaboration with the Alabama Department of Education for homeless and at-risk families in need

VICTIM ADVOCACY

Homicide Support And Resources

- * Office of Victims of Crime
- * The National Center for Victims of Crime
- * National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.

Suicide Support And Resources

If you are feeling suicidal, just know you are not alone. The Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 for individuals who may be feeling suicidal or experiencing emotional distress. The number is 988. If you, or someone you know are causing physical harm, call 9-1-1.

Continued on Page 18. See **VICTIM**

VICTIM... continued from Page 18

QUESTION, PERSUADE, REFER (QPR) TRAINING - A 60 to 90-minute training for the general public which teaches participants the general warning signs for suicide. The QPR training includes myths and facts about suicide, learning how to ask potential suicidal intent, how to persuade someone to get help and how to make a referral to professional resources.

RESOURCES:

- * 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- * American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- * National Crisis Text Hotline

Prevention Education

Lifelines Counseling Services Prevention Educators work to cover a variety of topics. Topics can include:

- * Healthy Relationships
- * Bystander Intervention
- * Sexual Assault Prevention
- * Suicide Prevention Programs

Elder Abuse Support

Forms of elder abuse can include physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, abandonment, emotional abuse, financial abuse, and healthcare fraud. It can take place anywhere including the elder's home, a family member's home, a nursing home or assisted living facility. The abuse can be done by anyone including a caregiver, family member, spouse, medical professional, or any individual that may come into contact with the elder. Elder abuse victims are often at risk because they depend on others for help due to disabilities, memory problems, and those without family or friends nearby.

Identity Theft Support

If you suspect that someone you know has become a victim of identity theft, it's crucial to provide them with the right guidance and support to help them navigate the situation. Here's what Lifelines's counselors can do to assist:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| * Encourage to Act Quickly | * Contact Financial Institutions |
| * File a Police Report | * Contact Credit Bureaus |
| * Review Credit Reports | * Monitor Accounts |
| * Change Passwords | * Inform Government Agencies |
| * Document Everything | * Seek Professional Help |
| * Stay Informed | |

LIFELINES VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM - This program is the cornerstone of Lifelines's C.A.R.E. Model to improve advocacy, resources, education, reduce stigma, and promote justice and fairness for victims of crime in the community. They have dedicated advocates specifically for survivors and victims of crime in these categories:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| * Survivors of Homicide Victims | * Kidnapping | * Elder Abuse |
| * Domestic/Family Violence | * Hate Crimes | * Robbery |
| * Rape/Sexual Assault | * Arson | * Labor Trafficking |
| * DUI Crashes | * Stalking/Harassment | |
| * Terrorism and Mass Violence | * Assault | |
| * Identity Theft, Fraud, or Financial Crime | | |
| * Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse | | |

RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Rape Crisis Center Services

Call 251-473-RAPE(7273) or 1-800-718-7273 if you or someone you know has experienced a sexual assault. Lifelines offers:

- * **COUNSELING** - Free and confidential

- * **LEGAL ADVOCACY** - Throughout the law enforcement and criminal justice proceedings
- * **FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER** - Includes advocates, MPD sex crime investigators, and County District Attorney staff
- * **THE PROMISE INITIATIVE** - Sexual Assault Kit program that inventories, test, and assigns personnel to investigate, prosecute, and support throughout the investigation and prosecution process
- * **THERAPEUTIC UNIT** - Works with children of sexual and domestic abuse. Counseling and Therapy for individuals and families

Rape Crisis Center Resources

- * Alabama Coalition Against Rape
- * The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
- * Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN)
- * me too: a movement helping to heal survivors of sexual violence

STAY PROTECTED. STAY SAFE.

HIV prevention starts with understanding your options.

Learn how you can stay protected with HIV prevention medications, **PrEP** and **PEP**.

LEARN MORE



Lifelines Counseling Services
Take the First Step.





ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC (EHE)

The staff of Lifelines Counseling Services provides support by offering local community programming, multi-organization community-driven projects, and coalition-led proposals from organizations collaborating to end the HIV epidemic in Mobile County.

* **Comprehensive HIV Innovation Programs:** The efforts supported through the program include, but are not limited to:

- Innovative non-clinical testing programs
- Innovative, supportive service programs
- Comprehensive HIV prevention programs inclusive of biomedical prevention options

* **Community Outreach and Education**

EHE

In 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) unveiled the EHE Initiative, a national collaborative response developed and embraced by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Resources and Services Administration, Indian Health Services, National Institute of Health, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration. The goal of EHE is to reduce new infections by 75% in the next 5 years and by 90% by 2030.

In Alabama, the EHE Initiative is a statewide effort with accelerated efforts to reduce new HIV infections within the five highest burden counties---Houston, Jefferson, MOBILE, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa, and the 14 emerging counties---Bullock, Calhoun, Dallas, Franklin, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Russell, Talladega, Walker, and Winston.

To accomplish the goals of the EHE Initiative, Alabama's plan to eliminate the transmission of HIV related deaths align with the EHE pillars. The "pillars," or strategies that can end the epidemic are, Diagnosis, Treat, Prevent, and Respond. With sufficient resources, EHE's goal of reducing new HIV infections in the United States by 90% is achievable. You can find tools and resources locally through Lifelines, through the Alabama Department of Health, and the CDC.

EHE PILLARS

DIAGNOSE - Diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible. Knowing one's HIV status is a critical step in accessing powerful prevention and treatment tools. CDC collaborates with communities and other agencies to expand HIV testing according to CDC guidelines.

Strategy - To decrease the number of new HIV infections and help more people get tested and know their status.

TREAT - Treat people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression. HIV treatment preserves the health of people with HIV and is one of the most powerful HIV prevention strategies available. People with HIV can live long, healthy lives. They will not transmit HIV through sex if they take medication as prescribed and maintain an undetectable viral load. This is known as treatment, as prevention, and is sometimes referred to as "Undetectable = Untransmittable" or U=U.

STRATEGY - To increase the number of people with HIV who are on treatment and who are virally suppressed.

PREVENT - Prevent new HIV transmission by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs). PrEP and SSPs are highly effective HIV prevention strategies. When taken as prescribed, PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99%. PrEP also reduces the risk of getting HIV from injection drug use by at least 74%. Comprehensive SSPs have been shown to dramatically reduce HIV transmission. SSPs also provide an entry point accessing substance use disorder treatment and prevent overdose deaths and other infectious diseases.

STRATEGY - To prevent new HIV transmissions and increase access to HIV prevention services.

RESPOND - Respond quickly to potential HIV outbreaks you to get vital prevention and treatment services to people who need them. Real time cluster detection and response are key to ending the HIV epidemic in the United States. New public healthy strategies, including epidemiological approaches, help us quickly identify communities affected by rapid HIV transmission. Rapid transmission occurs when affected communities are not being reached by existing services due to structural and social factors. These factors may include stigma, discrimination, racism, poverty, and others.


STRATEGY


To get vital HIV prevention and treatment services and resources to people who need them.

For more detailed information on strategies for the pillars, go to the Alabama Department of Health website or contact Lifelines at 251-602- 0909.

HOPE. HEALING. HEALTH.

If you're a victim of sexual assault. Hope, healing and a healthy you are within reach. PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis) can protect your health within 72 hours of potential HIV exposure.

 Lifelines Counseling Services
Take the First Step.

 ALABAMA
PUBLIC
HEALTH



Expressions: Right or Wrong!

Lisa Johnson

Do you find yourself giving and giving until there's nothing else left to give? Perhaps you know someone who is always giving of themselves and expects nothing in return. People like this are certainly admirable and a blessing to those in need. Who might they be helping? It could be that they're helping a sick family member, husband, wife, child, friend, or neighbor. They truly enjoy helping others and bringing smiles to their faces. However, if they keep giving without taking time out for themselves, they're sure to wear themselves out.

Someone once said that you can't pour from an empty cup. How true these words have proven to be. An empty cup can't quench anyone's thirst, let alone your own if you're that giving person. As much as you want to help someone, you must take time to refresh yourself. Hopefully, there are people in your life who will urge you to care for yourself. If not, please have the common sense to see that you can only go so far without resting. Otherwise, you will find yourself needing someone to care for you. How many people do you know who have given so much of themselves that they're either no longer here, exhausted, or worse, suffered a stroke or another medical condition from overexertion? If you know someone like this, why not give them a helping hand by volunteering your time, energy, or resources to help lighten their load. Remember, many hands make the load light. There is more happiness in giving than receiving, but there needs to be a balance so that you can keep giving. The next time someone tells you to rest, do it! Read a book, go on a mini vacation, take a spa day, go for a walk, take a nap, or go for a ride. (Eccl. 4:6)♣

CITY OF PRICHARD

MAYORAL

CANDIDATE

FORUM

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for you to connect with Prichard's Mayoral Candidates as they share their vision, and engage in meaningful discussions about the issues that matter most to our constituents!

SATURDAY
JUNE 28, 2025

BLACK WOLF EVENT HALL
231 SOUTH WILSON AVE

4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

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MCDEC
Mobile County Democratic Executive Committee

HOSTED BY:
- MINORITY AFFAIRS DIVISION -
MOBILE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Davis Announces Candidacy



Carletta Davis has announced her candidacy for Mayor of Prichard, Alabama. With a motto of "A Leader Transforming Prichard for the Better", she's a proven leader with a record of action, vision, and results. When her community in Eight Mile, Alabama, faced a serious environmental crisis caused by mercaptan contamination, Davis stepped up. She founded the We Matter Community Association to amplify residents' voices and secure proper remediation. Her advocacy didn't just address the immediate challenge; it laid the groundwork for a stronger civic culture in Alabama.

Davis's leadership shone again after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill devastated Alabama's coastal communities. By building a coalition across five Gulf Coast states, she ensured that minority and working-class families were recognized, supported, and included in recovery efforts. Her work helped secure targeted cleanup efforts, equitable settlement funds, and long-term projects that revitalized local ecosystems and economies. But Davis' impact goes beyond crisis management. With decades of experience in financial management, civic leadership, and housing advocacy, she's created real change for Prichard's residents.

Today, Carletta Davis's vision for Prichard is clear: a responsive government that partners with citizens to deliver quality education, well-paying jobs, clean natural resources, and vibrant public spaces. She is committed to fostering a community where everyone has a voice and every neighborhood thrives. She doesn't just talk about change—she makes it happen. With a track record of tangible results, she is the leader Prichard needs to build a more equitable, sustainable, and successful future.

Davis's approach to leadership goes beyond traditional governance. She is deeply invested in building a culture of trust, equity, and active citizen participation. At the heart of her leadership is a clear and ambitious vision for Prichard, Alabama. She envisions a responsive, transparent, and inclusive government that works hand-in-hand with its residents. Her priorities include ensuring access to quality education, creating well-paying jobs, protecting the environment, and revitalizing public spaces. Davis understands that transformative change requires collaboration, accountability, and a commitment to equity.

She knows what it takes to deliver results, and she's proven it time and time again. Her affiliations include:

- * Board Member, Mobile Baykeeper
- * State Environmental Justice Chair, NAACP
- * Member, Alabama Rivers Alliance
- * Fannie Mae Underwriter (2006–Present)
- * National Mortgage Licensing System Licensee (2010–Present)
- * Lending Partner, Adams Homes and Birmingham Housing Authority
- * Birmingham Board of Realtors Affiliate (2006)
- * Member, Birmingham Economic Roundtable
- * Instructor, Credit Counseling Courses (2007)
- * Leader, Revelation Church Ministries
- * Member, Mt. Hebron Church Ministries
- * Member, State, and County Democratic Committees
- * Member, Alabama Democratic Conference

Carletta Davis is a visionary civic leader, an experienced financial professional, and an advocate for social, environmental, and economic justice. With deep roots in Alabama, Davis has spent her life championing initiatives that strengthen communities, protect the environment, and create equitable opportunities for all residents. Her steadfast commitment to improving lives has not only defined her career but also transformed her community.

HEALTH News & Information...



The RSA Tower
201 Monroe Street
Montgomery, AL.
Phone: (334) 206-5520
Web Site: www.alabamapublichealth.gov



251 North Bayou Street
Mobile, AL. 36602
Phone: (251) 88
Web Site: www.MCHD.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ILoveMCHD

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

MCHD'S INSPECTION SERVICES

A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has highlighted the contributing factors of foodborne illness outbreaks in the United States from 2014 to 2022. These outbreaks included approximately 15,000 illnesses, 800 hospitalizations, and 20 deaths. Many foodborne illness outbreaks occur because of contamination of food by an animal or environmental source before arriving at the point of final preparation. Most viral outbreaks are caused by contamination from ill food workers. Two common contributing factors to bacterial outbreaks are allowing foods to remain out of temperature control for a prolonged period along with inadequate time and temperature control during cooking.

"MHDC's Food & Lodging inspectors are present in the community partnering with eating establishments to ensure science-based food safety guidelines are followed to prevent outbreaks in our county," said Dr. Kevin Michaels, Health Officer for Mobile County. "We also offer food handler training courses to businesses and employees. Individual consumers can see how well the eating establishment performs by reviewing the numerical score posted in the business or downloading the MCHD App to their digital device and clicking on the Restaurant Rating."

MHDC app is available for download for free in the App Store and Google Play. Search "My MCHD Health Check" or click the following link to download the app... <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a65536603>. The app can be used in both English and Spanish. To learn more about Inspection Services, visit... <https://mchd.org/environmental-health/> or call 251-690-8116. ###

TESTING FOR STD/HIV PRIVATELY

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) STD/HIV At-Home Specimen Collection initiative has been renewed. On May 01, kits will be available for order. The ADPH Division of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Control has collaborated with aware, Inc. for the ordering and delivery of the kits.

The purpose of the initiative is to promote STD/HIV testing and strengthen STD/HIV prevention efforts in Alabama. Home delivery of specimen collection kits allows people to collect a sample for a sexually transmitted infection, including HIV, in the convenience of their own home. The approach will help reach vulnerable populations and individuals in rural communities who may not otherwise get tested.

Specimen collection kits are mailed to the patient's home. The kits contain supplies to collect specimens from various collection sites. The kit is then mailed to a lab in a pre-paid envelope. Specific information about requesting a test, test results, treatment and follow-up is available at <https://adph.onimaware.com/>

ADPH operates free, confidential STD clinics statewide. Contact your county health department to find the closest clinic near you. ###

WIC INCOME GUIDELINES INCREASE

Alabama's income guidelines for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (better known as WIC) have increased, and additional people may qualify. If you are a woman who is pregnant, has had a baby within the past six months, or is currently breastfeeding, or if you are the parent or guardian of a child up to age 5, you are encouraged to contact your local county health department or WIC agency to apply.

Under the 2025 federal poverty guidelines, more families may be eligible for the program. WIC is open to participants with incomes up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Check the table below to see if your family may qualify:

Family Size*	Annual Income	Weekly Income
2.....	\$39,128	\$753
3.....	\$49,303	\$949
4.....	\$59,478	\$1,144
5.....	\$69,653	\$1,340
6.....	\$78,828	\$1,536

*Each unborn infant counts as one in the family size.

*For additional family sizes, please visit www.alabamapublichealth.gov/wic.

Pam Galloway, Alabama WIC Director, said, "WIC is here to help women, infants, and children in Alabama improve their overall health by providing nutritious foods, nutrition education, and breastfeeding support. Food package changes will be rolled out later this year to provide participants with more choices and flexibility to help them meet their nutrition needs and food preferences."

For more information, please go to <http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/wic> or call the statewide toll-free line at 1-888-942-4673 (1-888-WIC-HOPE) ###

FIGHT THE BITE

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES THIS SEASON

As mosquito season ramps up, the Alabama Department of Public Health urges all residents to take preventive measures to protect themselves and their communities from mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEEV), St. Louis Encephalitis Virus (SLEV), and La Crosse Virus (LCV). Mosquitoes are more than a nuisance; they can carry viruses that cause serious illness in humans. Fortunately, there are simple steps everyone can take to stay safe.

MOSQUITO HABITAT: ELIMINATE STANDING WATER

Mosquitoes lay eggs in standing water. One small container can produce hundreds of mosquitoes in a week. To prevent breeding:

- Dump and drain standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pet dishes, birdbaths, tires, tarps, and children's toys.
- Clean and scrub containers that hold water weekly to remove mosquito eggs.
- Cover rain barrels or water storage containers with tightly fitting lids or fine mesh.
- Fill in low spots in your yard where water can collect.

BITE PREVENTION: PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

No vaccine and no specific treatments are available for these mosquito-borne diseases. Therefore, the best defense is to prevent mosquito bites. Reduce your risk of infection with these bite prevention tips:

- Use EPA-registered insect repellents with DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors, especially during Dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Stay indoors during peak mosquito hours whenever possible.

WNV is the most reported mosquito-borne disease in Alabama. WNV cycles between mosquitoes and wild birds and is primarily transmitted by Culex species. Culex mosquitoes can live and breed near our homes, and these mosquitoes along with other kinds of mosquitoes can pick up the virus and then transmit it to people, horses, and other mammals when biting during their next meal. EEEV, SLE, and LCV are also spread through the bite of a mosquito.



Creole History Highlights

Tracy Neely

PRESIDENT: MOBILE CREOLE CULTURAL
AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

THE CREOLE FESTIVAL RETURNS

Since 2017, the Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society (MCCHPS) has transformed from a simple Facebook group into a vibrant community dedicated to preserving and celebrating Mobile's rich Creole heritage. Join us for our signature event - what we affectionately call our "Creole Family Reunion" - a weekend of connection, discovery, and celebration.

THIS YEAR'S THEME

"Defining Creole: Exploring Identity, Culture, and Meaning"

WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Explore the historic Lower Dauphin Street District during our family-friendly welcome reception	Engage with fascinating speakers and participate in enlightening discussions about our shared history	Close the weekend with a delicious farewell brunch on the beautiful Causeway

FEATURED SPEAKERS

JENÉ WATSON

Discover the remarkable life of Maud Cuney Hare (1874-1936) - musician, folklorist, performer, arts activist, and passionate champion of Creole culture

DANIELE SIMPSON of Kréyol Konèkt
TAALIB AUGUSTE-PIERRE of Louisiana Creole, Inc.

Explore linguistic history and personal stories of growing up Creole on the Northern Gulf Coast

**Everyone Is Welcome! You Don't Need Creole Ancestry
Bring Your Curiosity and Interest in This Fascinating Cultural History!**

REGISTER TODAY

\$150 PER PERSON | \$200 PER COUPLE

Scan the QR code on our flyer or visit mobilecreolesociety.weebly.com
Look for the Reunion 2025 tab.

Join us in celebrating and preserving our unique cultural heritage!✶

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Keynote Speaker: Jené Watson

Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society

Presents

Originally from the Texas Gulf Coast, JENÉ WATSON is a mother, writer, educator, librarian and cultural curator who now lives in suburban Atlanta. Jené first learned about the life and work of Maud Cuney Hare, pianist, musicologist, writer, and African American Activist, in 2003 while writing Texas Creole, her short film and community portrait of Galveston. In 2016, Jené began presenting talks about Maud at literary and scholarly events throughout the U.S. She is currently at work on a young adult biography on Maud.

DEFINING CREOLE:

EXPLORING IDENTITY, CULTURE, AND MEANING

June 13-15, 2025

*Daniele Simpson
with Kréyol Konèkt*

*Taalib Pierre-Auguste
President of Louisiana Creole, Inc.*



*In Memory of
Alex Trenier*

*A Creole Family Reunion
Bernheim Hall*

*Tickets \$150 per person and \$200 per couple.
Children ages 6-12 \$50 and under 6 free
mobilecreolesociety.com*



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RE-ELECT

Stephani
JOHNSON-NORWOOD
Prichard City Council
District 2
AUGUST 26, 2025



NORWOOD Seeks RETURN to OFFICE

Stephani Johnson-Norwood has announced her intention to continue to serve the City of Prichard in her current role as Councilwoman in District 2.

Under her banner, "Still Working for a Brighter Day!", Norwood lists several accomplishments on her 1st Term Resume including:

- ✓ The replacing of streets and pothole repair across her district
- ✓ The completion of a major Lightning and Beautification project on Wasson Avenue... A major entryway into the city
- ✓ The installation of the "Welcome to Historic Whistler" signage
- ✓ Partnered with Commissioner Merceria Ludgood to upgrade and beautify the Bike and Walking Trail and the renovation of Chickasabogue Park
- ✓ Spearheaded the passing of legislation to increase affordable housing, stop large trucks from parking illegally in residential areas, and enforcing fines for littering
- ✓ Revitalizing the Prichard Chamber of Commerce to support existing businesses and attract new businesses to the city

Councilwoman Norwood is excited about the possibility of continuing her work in the district and, across the city, and is asking for the help of the citizens of Prichard to achieve more goals.

"Still Working For a Brighter Day!"

Jermaine A. Burrell



Native Son to Run for MOBILE MAYOR

Intent filing follows Burrell’s 25+ years career of senior leadership roles in corporate America, longtime dedication to service.

Burrell also formerly served on the Mobile City Council representing District 3

Burrell: *“I believe working together we can [...] make our city a place where everyone—business owners, working families, seniors, young professionals, and more—can thrive and feel safe, no matter their background or what neighborhood they live in.”*

Burrell is also founder of both a local management consulting company and civic engagement organization.

Burrell: *“I’m looking forward to connecting directly with Mobilians over the coming weeks about how we can build Mobile’s future together”*

Native Mobilian Jermaine A. Burrell, an entrepreneur and community organizer with more than two decades of corporate leadership experience, filed his intent to run for mayor of Mobile in the upcoming August 2025 municipal election. “Mobile has invested a great deal in me, instilling the values and lessons in me that have allowed me to travel the world and grow my leadership and management skills in corporate America. I was thrilled to put my experience to use for District 3 and our city during my tenure on the City Council, and I was crushed when the city’s lack of job opportunities forced me to move away to continue growing in my industry,” said Burrell on filing his intent to run for mayor.

“I returned home because I love Mobile, but no one should have to leave our city or go without because they can’t grow their careers, or their business won’t flourish or they don’t feel safe in their homes,” continued Burrell. “That’s why I’m exploring a bid to lead our city as its next Mayor, because I believe working together we can build on our successes to make our city a place where everyone—business owners, working families, seniors, young professionals, and more—can thrive and feel safe, no matter their background or what neighborhood they live in. I’m looking forward to connecting directly with Mobilians over the coming weeks about how we can build Mobile’s future together.”

Burrell plans to hear from Mobilians over the coming days and weeks to learn more about their top issues in the upcoming mayoral race. A dedicated public servant with more than 25 years of senior leadership experience in business and IT management, Burrell has a long track record of boosting productivity, reducing operational costs, managing global cross-functional teams and directing multi-million dollar budgets for several Fortune 500 companies.

Currently, Burrell serves as the founder of J. Burrell Enterprises, a local management consulting company, and Voices of Truth Community Organizers, a local organization focused on civic engagement and youth mentorship. Additionally, from 2009-2012, Burrell represented District 3 on the Mobile City Council, where he fought against burdensome fees on residents and irresponsible spending and budgets that would cut essential city services. During his time on City Council, Burrell also led successful efforts to revamp the Taylor Park municipal pool in Oakdale, renovate the old South Brookley School into the updated Dauphin Island Parkway Senior Activities for Independent Living Center, and restore Duval Park.

For more information about Jermaine, visit BurrellforMobile.com.

A Little Mobile Flava



2025 GULF COAST ETHNIC & HERITAGE JAZZ FESTIVAL Celebrates 27 YEARS of bringing world acclaimed jazz artist and educators to Mobile once again on the weekend of July 24–July 27. The focus this year will be on World Acclaimed Mobile Musicians and Educators.

The Festival begins to roll on July 24 with the Marcus Johnson Summer Jazz Camp with the theme of "Keeping Jazz Alive for Future Generations." The two week camp runs Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm at the History Museum of Mobile. The camp, with Hosea London as Music Director, is for musicians age 6 up to Adult Seniors. The camp is an incredible blend of music education, cultural enrichment and team building. The fundamentals of jazz are taught by seasoned, local professionals. This year, the camp features nationally and internationally acclaimed New Orleans' own Delfeayo Marsalis as the Artist in Residence. Also, a highlight of the camp is the Jazz Exploration Experience field trip and parents travel via motor coach to neighboring cities to visit notable historical music landmarks and educational institutions. Camp tuition is \$100 and \$45 for the field trip. Scholarships are available. For information on the Camp, call 251-478-4027.

This year's festival features The Voice famer, Tonya Boyd Cannon who will perform on July 26 at the Temple in Downtown Mobile. This Mississippi born, New Orleans raised singer-songwriter has been singing since she was a child. Her musical repertoire includes gospel, classical, reggae, funk, neo-soul, rock and jazz. She was contestant and part of the Final 20 on The Voice, and was also included in the Essence Festival lineup.

GCEHF TEMPLE SCHEDULE	
July 24-27	
JUL 24—An Evening of Poetry	6:00 pm
JUL 25—Hosea London Jazz Music & Education Gala ..	6:30 pm
JUL 26—Roman Street	6:30 pm
Mobile Big Band-A Tribute to Quincy Jones.....	7:30 pm
Tonya Boyd Cannon & Keep It Live	8:30 pm

The Festival closes on July 27 with a Jazz Brunch
@Kazoola's (Dauphin Street/Downtown Mobile) 12 pm-3:00 pm

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
GCEHJAZZFEST.ORG –or– 251-478-4027



Black People Don't Know History

Tommy Green

Facebook Blogger

Former Editor for the Mobile Beacon

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Sisters and brothers, I am seeing a return to the 1950s and earlier times when Trump/Republicans are praising state's schools. I am an 85-year-old Black man from Arkansas. While I was in school from elementary through high school, the books were old because they had been used by the white students. Therefore, when I hear #47 talking positive about state schools, it reminds me of his other statement, "Make America Great Again." Those words reminded me of oppression against Black people.

African Americans, I don't know how we will fare in 2025, but it is paramount that we study our history in America. We have some options confronting USES, which could benefit the Black community: (1) The Democrats are perceived as weaklings, but we can influence their actions because of the large number Blacks voters; (2) The Republicans have gone over to the dark side of racism, so it is idiotic for Blacks to support their agenda; (3) The Independent candidates face obstacles: (A) Each state has its own rules, deadlines, and signature thresholds, making it exceptionally challenging for non-mainstream candidates to gain nationwide access; (B) National debates and media coverage are largely controlled by major news networks, which tend to favor major party candidates; (C) Federal campaign finance regulations can be especially burdensome for independent candidates; (D) At the national level, the "spoiler" stigma is often amplified. Voters may be more reluctant to support independent or third-party candidates due to fears of splitting the vote and indirectly aiding a major party candidate they oppose; and (E) In presidential elections, the Electoral College system can make it nearly impossible for independent candidates to secure the electoral votes needed to win the presidency. Therefore, descendants of enslaved Africans, your history and position in America is very different from all other ethnic groups.

Black veterans, you can see where #47 is heading concerning Black people. You should consider joining an organization that has been in the struggle since 1910, and this is the National Organization for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). I assume that you never thought, you would encounter a president who only cares about himself. I hope that this is a wake-up for USES because we thought that old days of racism had passed. However, history is always near the disenfranchised groups, especially if they are very distinguishable from the oppressors. We should never forget again as long as we are Black, we are only a short distance from our rights being reduced. I am a member of the NAACP, and the organization has stood for rights for all disenfranchised citizens since 1910.

Joy Reid, former host, Ayman Mehryeldin and Ali Velshi were the only commentators on MSNBC who discussed how the Israelites were moving Palestinians of their land. Former President Joe Biden and Progressive on MSNBC, including Nicole Wallace. Rachel Maddox, Ari Melber, Chris Hayes, and Lawrence O'Donnell never reported how the Israelites were seizing Palestinian's land.♣



Moments in Time

Paulette Horton

Lillie Warren

History was made in Mobile on February 14, 1951 when a black nurse, Lillie Warren delivered five and a half pound triplets without a doctor's help. The triplets, two boys and one girl, belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Francis.

In her thirty-one years of nursing, she said this was the first case of its kind. In addition to being a nurse, Ms. Warren was an active member of Franklin Street Baptist Church where she was active in every department of the church.

She worked at what was known as the 'Old Folks and Orphans' Home' along with her mother, Mrs. Leona B. Warren. Both worked untiringly with this charitable institution, which served many frail, elderly, and orphaned individuals for many years.

The Old Folks and Orphans' Home, which was located on the corner of Mobile Street and Springhill Avenue, later became known as the U.J. Robinson Memorial Day Care Center. A public school, located on Mobile Street not far from the U.J. Robinson Center, was named for Warren's mother, Leona B. Warren. It now houses a Head Start facility.♣

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THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX
Arthur L. Mack
FREELANCE WRITER
steppinoutnews@aol.com

Bright Ideas?

I've been thinking about some things over the past few weeks. You know, sometimes it's tough writing for a monthly because it can be a struggle writing about a timely subject. I say this because there's so much going on in a span of a month that by the time you get your thoughts together, the subject you want to write about is older than week-old garbage. But thanks to reading about certain things, along with keeping up with local and national news and thinking about some of the stuff I've written about in books, I'm inspired to write about something.

With the craziness going on in America right now — you know, tariffs, the erasure of Black History, defunding of universities because of DEI, and an increasing erosion of what's left of a free press — it's about time we look at making plans to get things back on track. The reason we must do this is because various plans have or are in the process of being put into place...things such as Project 2025, the Insurrection Act, etc. Just as conservatives have formed think tanks to put policies in place designed to erode what's left of this democracy (not that Black people have felt they've been part of a democracy anyway), we have to explore the option of creating think tanks of our own.

These think tanks will not be operated out of mere emotion...they will be operated based on raw data; that is, the results of harmful policies that have so far harmed people of color and poor people in general. The individuals tasked with operating these think tanks would use this data and share it with the public, and then with organizations who are truly committed to helping the disenfranchised. From there, this data would be shared with news outlets around the country as well as around the world. It would create quite a stir, that's for sure. It doesn't matter what MAGA extremists think...they won't be invited to the party anyway. We're focusing on undoing the economic, racial, and psychological damage done to this country because of destructive policies created by the current administration.

For all of you history buffs out there...you remember the Marshall Plan, right? That was the initiative the United States implemented to provide foreign aid to Western European countries after World War II. Then, there was the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to provide relief after the COVID crisis. If this think tank could use ideas from either one of those plans to revive economically disadvantaged communities in this country, I'm all for it. But it would have to enlist a coalition of activists, public servants, religious leaders, successful businessmen and the like to come up with solutions to uplift communities economically and spiritually. There will be no room for egos; too much is at stake here.

Sure, this may sound like a dream. But dreams can come true, right?♣️

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Gulf Coast
Ethnic &
Heritage

JAZZ

Festival

JULY 26, 2025
Tonya Boyd-Cannon
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THE VOICE
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A TRIBUTE TO QUINCY JONES BY
MOBILE BIG BAND FEATURING
INTERNATIONAL LEGEND FRED WESLEY

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7/27 JAZZ IN THE CITY @ THE TEMPLE \$25
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Bill Packard
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June 2 - June 5
12 shows

Mobile Public Library

MONDAY, JUNE 2
SARALAND PUBLIC LIBRARY: 10 A.M.
SEMME'S REGIONAL LIBRARY: 1 P.M.
MOORER/SPRING HILL BRANCH: 3 P.M.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4
WEST REGIONAL LIBRARY: 9:30 & 11 A.M.
GRAND BAY LIBRARY: 2 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3
BEN MAY MAIN LIBRARY: 10 A.M. & 1 P.M.
PARKWAY BRANCH: 3 P.M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5
TRINITY GARDENS: 10 A.M.
TOULMINVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY: 1 P.M.
THEODORE OAKS BRANCH: 3 P.M.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR SOME LOCATIONS DUE TO LIMITED CAPACITY
SEE CALENDAR FOR AVAILABILITY



HONORS CLASS OF 2025

On Tuesday evening, 143 students crossed the stage at the Oscar H. Lipscomb Athletic Complex as ACCEL Day and Evening Academy, the state's first public charter school, celebrated its Class of 2025 in a heartfelt and hope-filled graduation ceremony at the Oscar H. Lipscomb Athletic Complex. The students (143) earned their high school diploma while becoming transformed individuals who took chances and defeated their challenges to establish their unique path to success. The ceremony opened with a presentation of colors by the school's Army JROTC, an invocation from Reverend Charlotte Green, who serves on the MAEF Public Charter School's Board of Directors, and musical selections by the Joyful Noise choir.

"This is only the beginning," said Salutatorian Jaya Turner, addressing the audience. "We're stepping into a world full of challenges and a world full of opportunity. Let's move ahead with courage and compassion."

Valedictorian La'Kendra West offered a message of gratitude for the support of her mother, mentors, and teachers. She shared that her mother taught her three essential life principles which she called the three Bs — Beauty, Books, and Brains. "Beauty is how you carry yourself. Books are about the importance of education. And brains mean using wisdom and strength in everything you do," she shared.

Jordan Jones, Chairman of the Board for MAEF Public Charter Schools, provided greetings and introduced mayor Sandy Stimpson who delivered the keynote address. Jones reflected on a powerful passage from Matthew 14, using the story as a metaphor for the bravery it takes to embrace change, take meaningful risks, and trust in a higher purpose. "Stepping into the unknown requires courage," he said. "And it often reveals the strength we didn't know we had."

Founded to serve students who needed a different kind of opportunity to reach the finish line, ACCEL Academy provides personalized and flexible pathways to graduation. Whether students are moving on to college, the military, a career, or are still discovering their next step, the Class of 2025 left the stage with a message of resilience and readiness.

"Today is not just a celebration of achievement," Turner said. "It's a celebration of identity, of growth, and of the future we are about to create."

ACCEL Academy is Alabama's first public charter school that provides flexible and student-centered learning pathways to high school completion. Serving grades 6 through 12 with a campus that operates both day and evening classes, ACCEL is committed to creating an educational environment supports student success for all students.

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



The True Problem With Medicare Is Greed

The national health insurance program that former President Truman envisioned is different from the one signed in 1965 by former President Johnson, known as the Medicare and Medicaid Act. Sixty years later, after much influence from lobbyist representing for-profit health care entities, it is a mess. Despite what the Republicans say, any system that you pay into, it is a benefit, not an entitlement. The problem is political tinkering and adding components meant to reduce benefits and/or increase healthcare entity profits.

I formerly worked as Director of Marketing for a non-profit geriatric health plan in Southern California. The Seniors were amazed by the benefits. But due to the influence of larger for-profit healthcare entities, this pilot program was initially restricted to Southern California, Portland, Oregon and Brooklyn, New York. It has expanded but is still restricted. This Health Plan values care coordination, chronic disease prevention, and wellness oriented.

The traditional Medicare is expensive: Part B premiums are currently \$184 per month, in addition to Part D premiums and needing a Medicare Supplemental Plan costing an additional \$200 to \$600 per month. In addition, many need the safety net of a Long-Term Care plan with an additional premium. This can average \$9,408 annually, with the average Social Security Check in 2025 being \$1,999.97. Medicare Advantage creates a low premium plan that is viable for reasonably healthy seniors. Yet the biggest complaint is access to specialist, which you need your Doctor permission to access.

Medicare and Medicaid is a challenge because of greedy lobbyists and greedier politicians. The United States is ranked poorly in global healthcare system. With all the brilliance that exists in the United States, greed exceeds. That is the true reason that healthcare is the number one cause of bankruptcies. Yet we as Constituents are to blame for listening to charismatic sound bites and allowing this to exist. We must stop believing we have politicians who look out for our best interest. Congress health insurance is free for a lifetime and we pay for it. When are we going to wake up to the reality of greed and influence?

As Always Let's Be Greater! ❖

Hats Off

HAPPY *Birthday*
**Ms. Verlie Mae
Hawthorne Carroll**



Celebrating
82 **BLESSED YEARS!**

HAPPY 32ND WEDDING
Anniversary



**Lawrence &
Tracee Battles
WALLACE**

Congratulations!
Terrell Williams



**NAMED
Man of the Year**
by PRICHARD ALUMNI
CHAPTER KAPPA ALPHA PSI

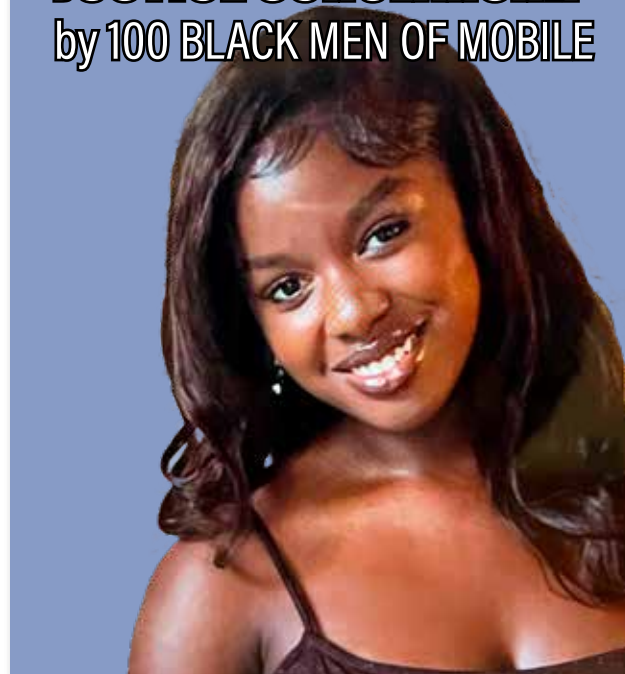
HAPPY *Birthday*
Ms. Mary Shaw



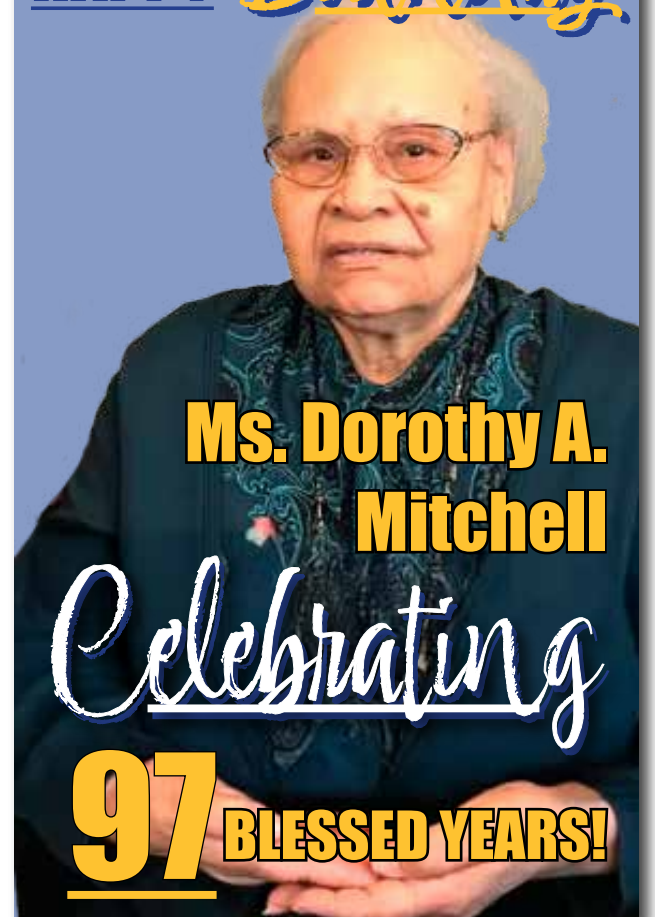
Celebrating
87 **BLESSED YEARS!**

Congratulations!
Raleigh Hunt

**AWARDED
SOUTH ALABAMA SOCIAL
JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP**
by 100 BLACK MEN OF MOBILE



HAPPY *Birthday*

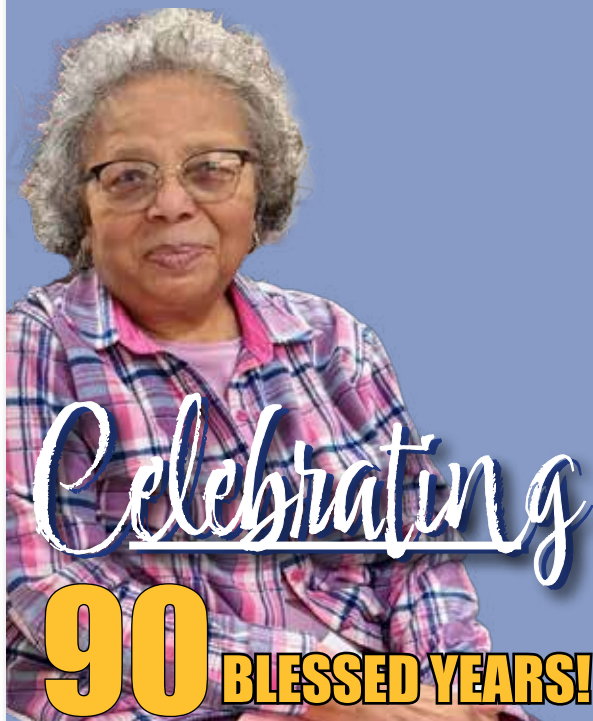


**Ms. Dorothy A.
Mitchell**

Celebrating
97 **BLESSED YEARS!**

Hats Off

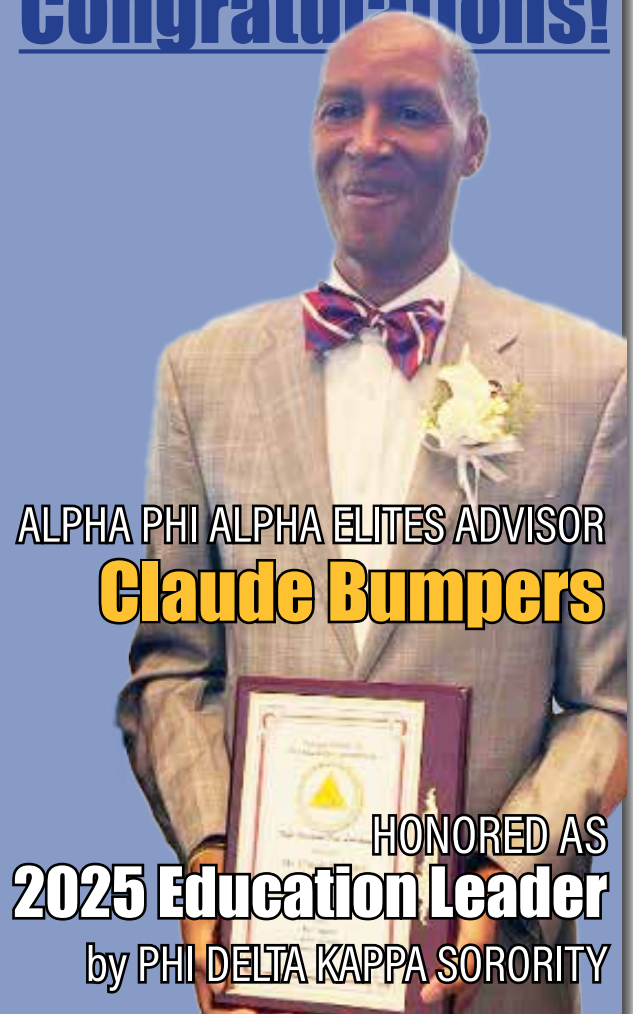
HAPPY *Birthday*
**Ms. Minnie Pearl
Edwards**



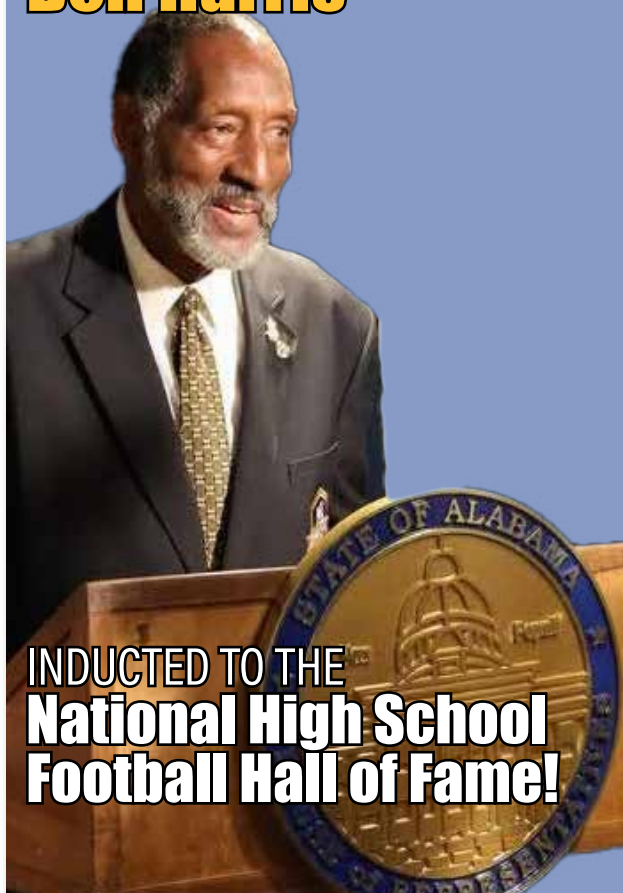
Congratulations!
Brittany Davis



Congratulations!



Congratulations!
Ben Harris



Congratulations!
Ja'Liyah Austin-Jones



Congratulations!
**Tianna
Horton**





BLACK LIVES MATTER

Tommy Green

Facebook Blogger
Former Editor for
the Mobile Beacon

Information To Contact Leadership-6

Yours Truly,

On March 24, 2025, Wired News reported, "Trump Officials in Signal Fiasco Attended Secret Mar-a-Lago Dinner Shortly After Celebrating Bombing. The officials accidentally invited the editor in chief of The Atlantic to their Signal group chat. Hours after bombs dropped on Yemen, they partied at a \$1-million-per-seat Mar-a-Lago dinner. Shortly after senior Trump administration officials discussed and celebrated the bombing of Yemen in an encrypted group chat that, unbeknownst to them, included the editor in chief of The Atlantic, a subset of the group feasted at an opulent, secret dinner featuring the president where guests were asked to pay \$1 million apiece to snag a seat.

The date was Saturday, March 15. President Donald Trump was at his Mar-a-Lago estate attending a "candlelight" dinner that wasn't on his public calendar. Earlier that day, the United States had bombed Yemen, targeting Houthi leadership. At least 53 people, including children, were killed," according to Wired News. Democrats, you can't allow this information to be forgotten by the American people because Republican's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)'s cabinet eventually will cause a military disaster. If a Democratic administration had made this blunder, it would be on right-wing-media daily. If Republicans accuse Democrats of being partisan, this stand in stark contrast to their reaction to Hillary Clinton's use of a home server as secretary of state.

You can type in the following information to contact an individual:

- (1) The Pres. & Vice Pres. go to [Whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov);
- (2) Type republicans senator last name.senate.gov. Because they control all levers of power in Wash, DC. If you aren't able to make contact, you should type [www.US Senators](https://www.us-senators.com)
- (3) Scroll down on left to Contacting U.S. Senators and choose a state or name. There will be information on email, address, and phone number for your senator.♣



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Alexis Herman • 77

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Mobile Native



John Ed Thompson • 82

METEOROLOGIST
WALA-TV10



GENE "GROOVE" ALLEN • 62

ACTOR/RAPPER
House Party;
What's Love Got To Do With It



GEORGE BELL • 67

HARLEM GLOBETROTTER;
TALLEST MAN IN U.S.



NANCY LEFTENANT-COLON • 104

1ST. BLACK WOMAN
in the
U.S. ARMY NURSE CORPS



BIRDIE MAE DAVIS • 77

ALABAMA SCHOOL
DESEGREGATION HERO



HAZEL NELL DUKES • 92

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST;
NAACP PRESIDENT



THOMAS JAMES HUNT • 91

SINGER
The Flamingos
I Only Have Eyes For You



ELLA JENKINS • 100

1ST. LADY
of CHILDREN'S MUSIC



VAL KILMER • 65

ACTOR
Top Gun
Batman Forever
Pneumonia



JAY NORTH • 73

ACTOR
Dennis the Menace
Colorectal Cancer



KEN ROSENTHAL • 81

FOUNDER OF PANERA BREAD
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