

Steppin' out



News!

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

VOLUME 25
ISSUE 05

ARTS • CULTURE • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY
2025



OUR HISTORY MATTERS

761st Black Panther Tank Battalion

FREE
TAKE ONE

Steppin' Out News!

"Reconnecting the Best of the African American Diaspora of Mobile's Past, Present and Future"

ABOUT STEPPIN' OUT

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

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

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

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

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**TAKING MOBILE
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

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MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER...

Greetings Steppin' Out Readers,

Because of you and your dedication to us, We Are Growing. Over the course of the last six months we have tripled our number of outlets which has caused us to increase our number of papers produced. In fact, we have had to start an outlet request list until we can further increase paper production to match the number of requests we are receiving. Thank you for that.



Over the next few months we will be adding more features in Steppin' Out. We are committed to serve the needs of Our Community. We will continue to support small businesses as they work to grow and make their services available to you. Let's not forget, Black Buying Power in 2023 accounted for \$1.6 Trillion Dollars in the United States. Household income for Blacks in 2023 on average was \$56,490 Dollars. Across this country, Blacks spent \$9.4 billion on beauty products alone. We account for 22.4% of sales in the fragrance industry and 16.6% in hand and body lotions. We also spend heavily in digital media, entertainment, healthcare, and transportation.

I'm bringing this up to ask...how much do you as a consumer spend in your community? How much are the organizations you support spending in your community? Every ethnic group in this country will go out of their way to ALSO spend in their community...do you? Our Ice is Just As Cold...Support Yourselves! Find that Black Business Person and give them a chance while watching that Black Business Dollar circulate in your community. That's the only way to achieve real economic growth.

With that said, Black Businesses and Organizations should be reaching out to you as a consumer and asking for your support. That has been lacking in our community and that needs to change. If the mindset among owners is Word of Mouth and Social Media only, then growth will be limited to who you know and who follows you. That approach is limited. I'm not saying you can't be successful, but what type of growth are you seeking? One should increase their growth opportunities based on budget and added value opportunities. If you invest in an advertiser one of your questions AFTER you review rates should be about added value opportunities.

And for all of us, anyone asking for your support, be it through your money, your vote, your time, your blessings...you should be asking and shown what they have done or will do for you and/or your community. In these times we live in and the games that are being played in our nation, and especially, in our neighborhoods and this community, how is what they're offering going to benefit you. Check their track record. Do they promise one thing and do another without explanation? Do they make promises without a roadmap on how they plan on getting there? Or more impor. "do they only show up when it's election time or when they need from you what they need to have?

I don't have to tell you what a great town we live in. There's a lot of changes being proposed that can significantly change the landscape of this place we call home. Steppin' Out will continue to provide truthful and accurate information without malice or personal gain. We will only promote stories and individuals that will benefit our community. We ask that you continue to support our advertisers and our distributors because without them we would not be able to be available to you.

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...

MARCH 2025



Isom Clemon Civil Rights Memorial Park Opens in Downtown Mobile

A ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony was held for a newly renovated downtown park honoring the legacy of Isom Clemon, a pivotal figure in the Labor and Civil Rights movements in Mobile.

Located at 520 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., the “Isom Clemon Civil Rights Memorial Park” sits directly across from the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) Local 1410 — a key meeting place during the Civil Rights era and an organization that Clemon led for many years. The land where the park now stands has always been an important gathering place for the surrounding neighborhoods. However, over the last decade, local elected leaders and community groups have worked collaboratively to plan, design and develop a “pocket park” worthy of Clemon’s name.

In 2016, Rotary Club of Mobile and Downtown Mobile Alliance led an effort to create a preliminary design for the park, working alongside community leaders and residents from surrounding neighborhoods. That fall, the late City Councilor Levon Manzie passed a resolution officially naming the park the “Isom Clemon Civil Rights Memorial Park.”

Mobile County Commission President Merceria Ludgood worked with Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson to create a plan for the park’s construction, which was funded through the City of Mobile’s TIF (Tax Increment Financing) District. Mobile County managed the design and construction process, and some elements of the park were funded through the Mobile County Commission’s American Rescue Plan Act allocation.

Construction on the park’s recent renovation broke ground in the summer of 2023. This \$1.4 million investment added improved seating, new sidewalks, enhanced landscaping, new lighting, and a unique play area designed with input from children at nearby Florence Howard Elementary School. In addition to these enhancements, the park now features two prominent public art installations...

- **A Bronze Statue of Isom Clemon:**

This 8-foot-9-inch bronze statue, accompanied by educational relief plaques, honors Clemon’s contributions to African American labor in Mobile and his pivotal role in the Civil Rights movement. The statue was created by Steven Whyte Sculpture Studios following a nationwide contest overseen by the Mobile Arts Council.

- **The Guardian of Labor, Liberty, and Love:**

Created by local artists Charles Smith and Frank Ledbetter, this stainless-steel sculpture commem



orates the men and women of ILA Local 1410. Drawing inspiration from African textiles and symbols, it represents the collective efforts of ILA members to gain respect for their labor, achieve true liberty, and share their love of life with all people. The sculpture was commissioned by the Rotary Club of Mobile and Main Street Mobile.

During the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony, members of the Clemon family celebrated with representatives of ILA Local 1410, the Alabama Democratic Conference and the many stakeholders who helped make this project a reality. Owned and managed by the City of Mobile, the park will be an integral piece of Mobile County’s Civil Rights and Cultural Heritage District — an expansive initiative championed by Commissioner Merceria Ludgood.

Clemon (October 18, 1919 – April 16, 1994) was a trailblazer in both labor and Civil Rights. As the leader of ILA Local 1410, he played a pivotal role in representing Mobile’s African American longshoremen. He was also a co-founder of the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), which helped secure African American political representation in Alabama, including the first African American delegates to the Democratic National Convention. ♣



History Remembered

Black History is Black Culture... And, it's under fire on a national level, and there's only one way to save it. We must actively pursue our right to celebrate our history through actively participating in it. We must show those that have a problem with being "Woke" that if they were as woke as we are, this country would be much better off. You can't claim to be Christian and a Patriot, yet not honor the contributions that all have made to make America first. Telling the truth about history is important in that truth helps to eliminate the mistakes of the past and points out the shortcomings of us as human beings. Truth allows us to strive to be better.

During World War II, there were many People of Color that gave their lives for this country, although they experienced the same Jim Crow attitudes on foreign soil by Americans that they dealt with in these United States... yet, they strived and survived. From their contributions during the American Revolution, to the Colored Troops in the Civil War, to the Buffalo Soldiers for the U.S Cavalry on the western frontier, to the segregated units in the World Wars, to the sacrifices made in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and to the battles in the Middle East, these Black men and women deserve to be recognized and celebrated for their service. We must remember that our ancestors never allowed their circumstances to stop them from achieving. And that is the attitude and determination that we absolutely must take to keep our history alive. We must make sure that we control our own stories while being watchful of those, both Black and non-Black that exploit our community for the dollars. Believe me, that's happening all around us.

Our ancestors always invested in themselves and their children. That's where their resources went...into the education they were denied, the culture they celebrated, the creativity that was within them, and the history and excellence they preserved. We need to carry on that tradition by exposing our children to our rich heritage every chance we get. We also must support those who look like us and make sure their not fronting for others that don't. Every other nationality of people do that, why not us, why not you.

Enjoy and Celebrate Black History Month and Black Culture 24/7/365. Our children need us to build a world around them that includes equity, fairness, truthfulness, and the knowledge of self. Teach them about the need and importance of political strenght, especially in today's climate where there are those who are implementing laws and systems to take those things away from us. We as a People have earned those rights and we shoud not allow anyone or any political party to take them away. Protect Those Rights and Honor Our History... By Any Means Necessary!!!♣



the POETRY Corner

To My Children

Take this hug to Heaven
and keep it close to you.
It holds all the love
I've ever had for you.

Remember when we laughed,
remember when we cried.
Take this hug to Heaven
and keep it by your side.

And when you are lonely
and joy is far away,
wrap this hug around you,
my heart with you – always.

Believe we'll be together,
know that I love you so.
Take this hug to Heaven
when you must leave, must go.

Then, once again together,
no eyes without a tear.
We took our hugs to Heaven,
gave them to our Savior.

And so, he did cry out,
the greatest joy ever known.
We took our hugs to Heaven
At last we all were home.

— ❖ —

In The Morning

You rise up in the morning
Like a rose that has nine lives
Turn into a carnation
When the rose inside you dies.

You don't need to be a beauty
Or a dresser who brings out sighs
What you want is sweet tenderness
A Man whose poems make you cry

I'm here to sing you poetry
To hold you through your darkest nights
To make you laugh when all seems lost
And give you hope that you're alright

Try to hold on till the morning
As I write this out with your tears
You have always been most worthy
Of a life with love all these years.

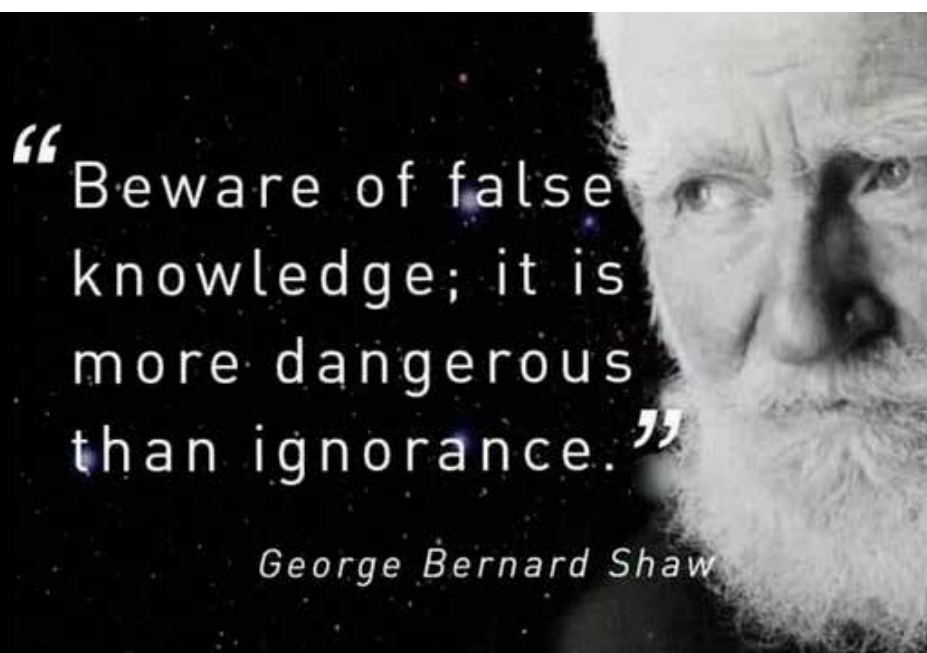
— ❖ —

I Dream These Words Have Entered Hospice

The Hospice Association of America
announced today that the words
bigotry, hatred, prejudice, and
racism have entered hospice and
are not expected to survive.

The groups that have supported them
are considering disbanding, and those
against them, are going to wait and see.
There will be no memorial services.
They will be cremated.

— ❖ —





BLACK ENTERPRISE

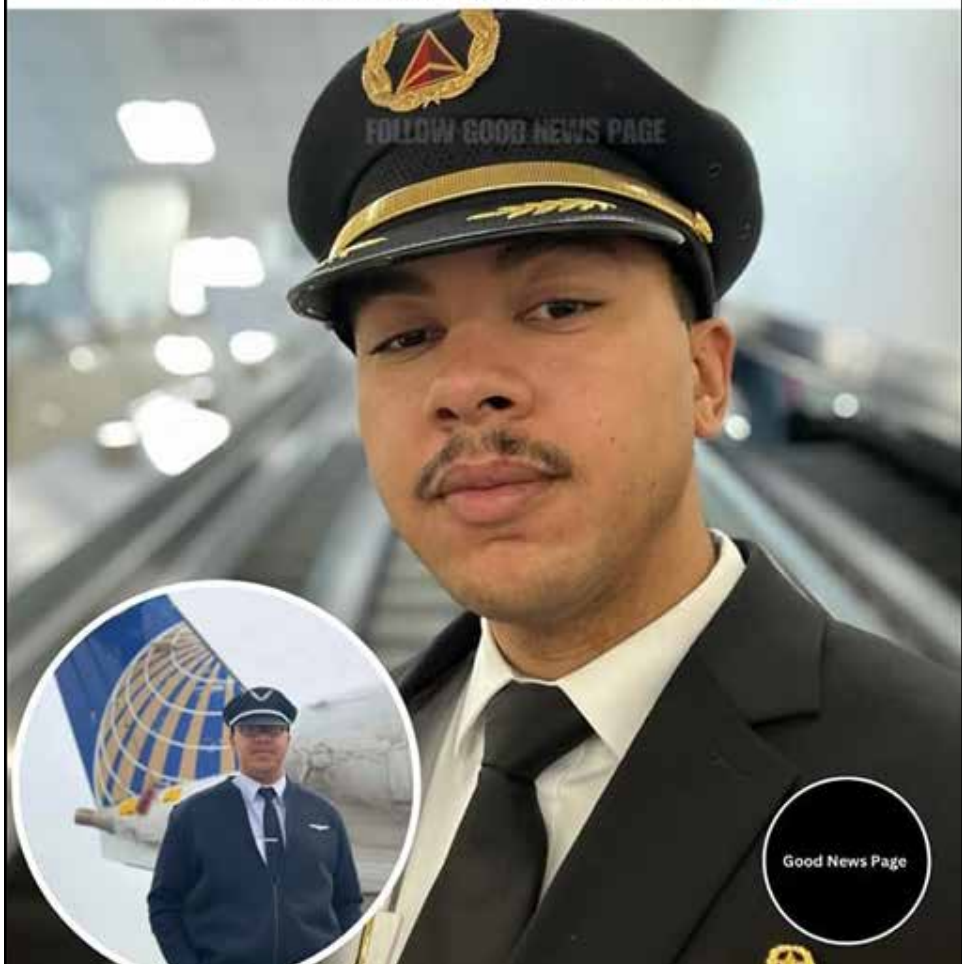
TEEN SCIENTIST NAMED TIME'S 2024 KID OF THE YEAR FOR INVENTING POTENTIAL CANCER TREATING BODY SOAP

Photo courtesy of Instagram (heman.bekele)

DID YOU KNOW...

- **OTIS BOYKIN** CREATED A WIRE RESISTOR that allowed a certain amount of electricity flow to a component. This resistor was used in household appliances, computers, and pacemakers.
- **DR. GEORGE GRANT** INVENTED THE FIRST GOLF TEE. Before his invention, golfers carried buckets of sand from hole to hole and built sand mounds from which to hit the balls.
- **JOHN RUSSWURM** and **SAMUEL CORNISH** FOUNDED THE 1ST BLACK NEWSPAPER IN AMERICA.
- **VICTOR BLANCO** was the BLACK MAYOR of SAN ANTONIO in 1809, before slavery was abolished, while Texas was still part of Mexico.

MEET THE 23-YEAR-OLD WHO BECOMES THE YOUNGEST AFRICAN AMERICAN CERTIFIED AS A BOEING 777 PILOT. DROP A ❤️



FOLLOW GOOD NEWS PAGE

Good News Page

In the 1800's one in four cowboys were African American, but what we learn in school, or watching movies, we would never know that.





Debra Braggs
VETERAN FASHION COLUMNIST
AND LIFESTYLE REPORTER

Get to Know...



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Jabaria Dent
Chief Executive Officer

You can hear the passion and excitement in Jabaria Dent's voice when she talks about the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama, also known as BGCSA. Just seven months into her new position as Chief Executive Officer of an organization that serves more than 2000 children across Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Dent says she is enjoying her work and is excited about what the future holds for the BGCSA. "From my own life's experience, I understand that what I learned in the classroom was essential, however the things I learned about life and how to apply life skills -- I learned that at a community center."

Dent admits that her professional resume is possibly a reflection of her mother, Shirley Willis, who had a passion for children.

"My mother served as director of the Duman Wesley Community Center of Mobile for many years. So growing up, I was always around children." The Dumas Wesley Community center has provided numerous services for Mobile's underprivileged families for more than a century. "This role at BGCSA is a part of the legacy of my mother, whose love for children runs as deeply in my veins as the blood that carries life. My taking this role is just taking her life's work to another level and building on the foundation she laid."

Dent says she never planned a career path aimed at serving young people, however her master's degree in Divinity and bachelor's degree in Political Science and English have always led to positions focusing on youth development and human resources. Formerly serving as the Academic Dean for Remington College, she oversaw all academic programming for the Mobile campus. She was also employed with The Accel Academy, where she helped students get back on track for graduation. And at The Mobile Area Education Foundation, Dent managed a Partners in Education program for 93 schools and partnered with all twelve Mobile County high schools to establish Signature Academies focused on preparing students for the local job market. The multi-faceted educator and director says "It has been a life's work that God was preparing me for."

These days, Dent is spending lots of time with young children, serving as the primary leader of the BGCSA that includes six clubs and six summer sites across Mobile and Baldwin Counties. The organization provides after-school care, education and other activities for children and their parents. "My favorite part of the week is when I get to spend time in the clubs with the children. I make it a point to greet them as they come in, at least one day a week, and give them a big hug as they enter." She explained that the BGCSA is an important bridge between the classroom

and the community. She says, being at the Club offers kids the opportunity to extend their learning from the classroom setting. "We are culture builders while providing a safe and productive environment for young minds. We basically touch all aspects of their lives."



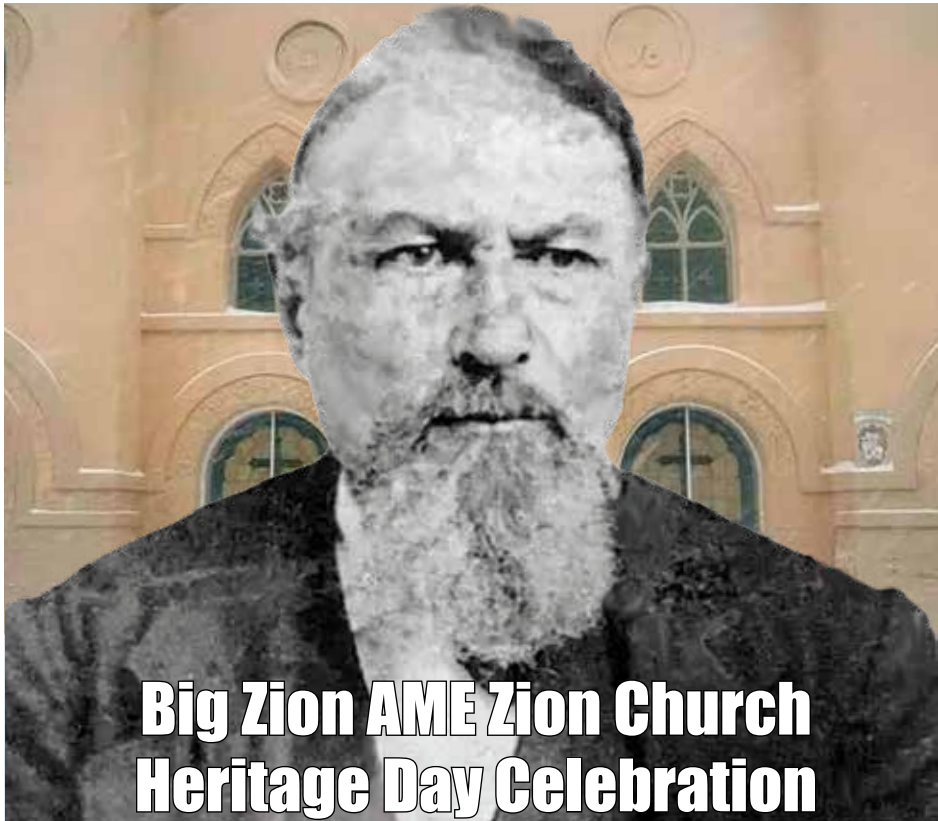
As if managing multiple sites for the Boys and Girls Clubs isn't demanding enough, Dent's busy life-calling has this wife and mother of six, pastoring a congregation alongside her husband, Dr. Charles Dent. She is lovingly known among her congregation as Pastor J, where she teaches a Bible class every Sunday morning and hosts a monthly women's Bible study group in her home, during which she prepares a meal. "My friends were concerned when I accepted the BGCSA position, wondering how I would manage it all. I told them that as long as God is at the center of my life, everything else will fall into place."

Dent is also the founder of Abbie's Girls, a non-profit for girls between the ages of 18 and 24. "I have always had a heart for teenagers. So, this group is very special to me. We meet monthly for 'Dinner and Dialogue'." With the support of husband and family, Dent says her responsibilities are a family affair. My husband is my biggest supporter. And when home is good, it gives you the energy to go out into the world and do lots of other things."

When it comes to BGCSA, the director says she sees so much potential in the impacts the organization can have in our communities. "I'm excited that we've launched four new sites. I'm excited that I've seen children thrive and become more productive and outgoing since I've been here. We are about to launch a program called Future Labs, recruiting students and parents to teach them about fashion design, cosmetology and the culinary arts. I'm so blessed to have a staff that has a heart for the work they do." The Boys and Girls Clubs are always looking for more volunteers and donations, according to Dent, who says anyone interested can visit Bgcsouthal.org to learn more.

She has one message for the community...
"To all my fellow nonprofit leaders in the city, we are not in competition, but in collaboration to transform our community. We don't serve a broke God."

He has infinite resources and I look forward to partnering in this work. ❖



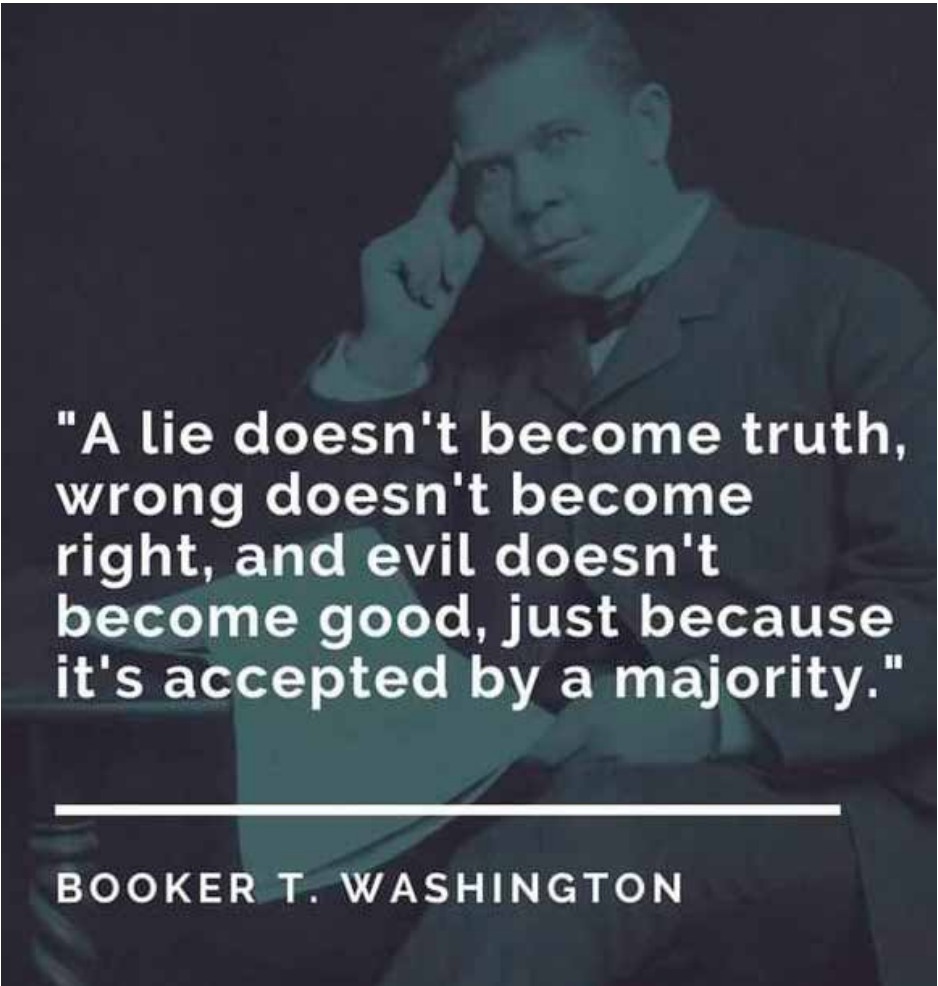
Big Zion AME Zion Church celebrated its annual Heritage Day Celebration on February 09 honoring the life and legacy of the late Rev. Shady Wesley Jones, a distinguished former pastor of the church and a pioneering leader in Alabama's political history. He was a trailblazer who rose from slavery to become one of the first Black legislators elected to the Alabama House of Representatives during Reconstruction. A fierce advocate for civil rights and equality, he was later appointed by President Ulysses S. Grant as the Inspector of the Mobile Custom House. Throughout his career, he remained a steadfast leader in the fight for justice and was instrumental in shaping Alabama's post-Civil War political landscape.

This year's Heritage Day program celebrated Rev. Jones' contributions to Mobile and beyond, highlighting his lasting impact on the church, the city, and the state. The event featured reflections on his legacy, historical insights, and recognition of his role in Big Zion's history. Founded in 1842, Big Zion AME Zion Church is one of Mobile's oldest African American congregations and Alabama's oldest Black Methodist Church. The church has played a vital role in the city's spiritual and social history, serving as a beacon of faith, leadership, and activism for generations.



Everyone is not going to like you. Should you even care that they don't? You check your social media page and see your friend's posts about a party you weren't invited to. Should you care that you weren't invited? The day is almost over, and no one has called or texted you. Should you care? Do you stop being a caring and loving person when you put yourself out to help a friend in their time of need but when the favor needs to be returned, they disappear? The reality is when you place your happiness in the hands of others, you're allowing them too much power over you. Some people aren't happy with themselves, therefore how can they like you. I've heard someone say they don't like a person just because of the way they look. That's ridiculous! Don't waste your precious time worrying about someone not liking you for no apparent reason. It's their problem, not yours. About the party that you weren't invited to be happy that you weren't there. Not being invited can serve as a protection. A picture is just a picture, but what's the real deal behind the picture? There could have been things going on that you didn't need to be a part of. Instead of worrying about why no one has called or texted you, thank God that you have some quiet time to focus on yourself and not on someone else's problems. We all need time to pause and reset, so take advantage of your me-time.

What about when your friend doesn't show up to help you, take it as a blessing. Oftentimes the person you think should be there for you is not the person God has planned for you. Sometimes God has planned that time for just the two of you. Talk to your Heavenly Father. Who knows you better and who better to guide you in the right direction? So, take time to linger in prayer and tell Him about your every concern (Jeremiah 29:12 "And you will call me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."). He can give you peace of mind that no one else can give you. ~Philippians 4:6, 7~ ♣



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Financial Tips Gwedolyn Hall



Happy New Year! As 2025 begin, while you are making your Resolutions to become a better person by getting physically fit, emotionally fit, spiritually fit, finding a new career, etc.; let us add financial fitness to this list. There are some simple things we all can incorporate into our financial life to prepare for the future.

1. GET STARTED

- Create a budget and stick to it!
- Pay more than minimum or pay off those loans, bills, holiday shopping credit cards.
- Stop impulse shopping!
- If you buy lunch every day, try bringing lunch from home at least a few days a week.
- Make it a practice to think before you spend (do I really need to make this purchase?)

Once you get these few simple habits put into place you will be ready for phase two...

2. SAVINGS

Let us talk about SAVING! Having an ample savings account or a rainy-day fund is important. Below are some remarkably simple ways to get on track without it been a burden. Many say I do not have the extra money to save; however, we all can save a little.

- Many banks and credit unions can help you begin this task by using their save n up plan. This works without much effort on our part. Every time you make a purchase the financial institution will round up your purchase to the next dollar amount and put that amount in an interest-bearing saving account for you. Some institutions will match your savings up to a certain amount. Example (purchase \$25.73 will be rounded up to \$26.00). The extra 27 cents will automatically be put into savings. This looks small but will grow over time and you will not miss it.
- Put all your spare change at the end of the day/week/month in a jar and watch it grow over time.
- For the month of February, begin putting \$1 in an envelope and add to it each day. \$1/day x 29 = \$29.00
- Create your own method that will work for you! Whatever you decide, make it simple and begin early

This is an exciting time in your life with new adventures ahead of you. Good financial decisions are important as it is easy to get misled. Remember to ask questions when you are unsure about a financial decision. Being a responsible adult means taking care of your obligations. Make purchases that you can afford and pay your bills. Your decisions now will determine your future financial stability.♣

Visual Arts Achievement Program & Young at Art Exhibition

The Mobile Arts Council has announced the upcoming 2025 District 1 Visual Arts Achievement Program and Young at Art exhibition, showcasing the talents of young artists from across the region.

The District 1 program, which includes public and private schools from Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington counties, offers a unique opportunity for students in grades 6 through 12 to be recognized for their contributions to the visual arts. Students who receive a District Award will also be recognized in the Alabama State Council on the Arts' State Awards online. The exhibition will feature artwork in a variety of categories, including craft, drawing, painting, photography/new media, printmaking, mixed media, and sculpture.



The District 1 juried exhibition will be on display from February 04 to February 23 at the Mobile Arts Council Gallery @Room 1927. Simultaneously, the Young at Art exhibition will highlight the creativity of 5th grade students and younger. While these younger artists are not part of the juried competition, their work will be celebrated as part of this vibrant event. The Awards Ceremony for both exhibitions will take place on February 23 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Mobile Arts Council Gallery @Room 1927.

This is a fantastic opportunity to support and celebrate the artistic achievements of young people in our community and surrounding areas. Everyone is invited to join in recognizing these rising stars and to experience the diverse range of artistic expression on display.

For more information, please contact the Mobile Arts Council at 251-432-9796 or visit mobilearts.org.♣

The Village!

It is certain,
in any case,
that ignorance,
allied with power,
is the most
ferocious enemy
justice can have.

James Baldwin

Village Rising



Taking Mobile To The Next Level

Memphis Vaughan Jr.

NATIVE MOBILIAN; EDITOR OF LITERARY

WEBSITE... TimBookTu.com

SEND FEEDBACK TO: mempv57@gmail.com

We're at a Crossroads in Our Nation

The clock has steadily been rolled back by some who would like to return to a time when one group dominates the others. While there has been a lot of progress made, some of that is now being unraveled and overrun by racism, bigotry, hatred, and sexism. We have an incoming administration that is unapologetic about mistreating these groups for the sake of money and power for themselves. America is wallowing in hatred because there are those who do not want to share the wealth and riches that this country possesses. All of the wealth that exists has been built on the backs of those at the lowest levels of society, who lack any power and influence. America loves to demonize groups for its benefit. Blacks, Native Americans, Asians, Hispanics, and Immigrants have been in the crosshairs at one time or another as the supposed cause of the ills of this country. Yet, when you dig deeper, you find that many within these groups are the ones that built America and made it the powerhouse that it is.

The reason we don't know as much about who built America is because those in power write most of the books, control the media, and determine what is taught in schools. They control the narrative by whitewashing history and covering up the wrongs that have been committed. It is our duty to search for the truth, learn more about our culture and its contributions, and be knowledgeable of the atrocities committed against many groups. We must not be distracted by the allure of celebrities, influencers, and sports figures making millions. Many have earned their success through hard work, and while some may get lucky, that's rare. Seeking wealth and fame without substantive work and effort is futile, and even if achieved quickly, it's often lost just as fast. The average person who works hard can be successful and have a meaningful life.

The point of this article is that you must put in the work and learn the hidden stories of triumph of Black people and other marginalized groups in this country. Although often unrecognized, these are the people that represent the true American values. Get informed and beware of the ways that we are slowly losing the gains that we have made. We must not let those coming into power continue to spread hate and racism without us standing firm and fighting back. This can be done through political, economic, and legal action. We can't let the clock get turned back.♣



Moments in Time

Paulette Horton



Willie F. Taylor

I attended George Hall Elementary School in 1964, when it first opened. At that Hall accommodated 5th and 6th grades in the Maysville to ease the overcrowding of Williamson School, which now accomodates 7th through 12th grades.

The first principal of George Hall was Mr. Willie F. Taylor. He received his B.S degree from Knoxville College and his Master's Degree from Tuskegee Institute.

I knew Mr. Taylor from my childhood and during my time at Bishop State Junior College as the Director of Student Personnel.

—Paulette Horton—



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Hats Off

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Roxanne Shante



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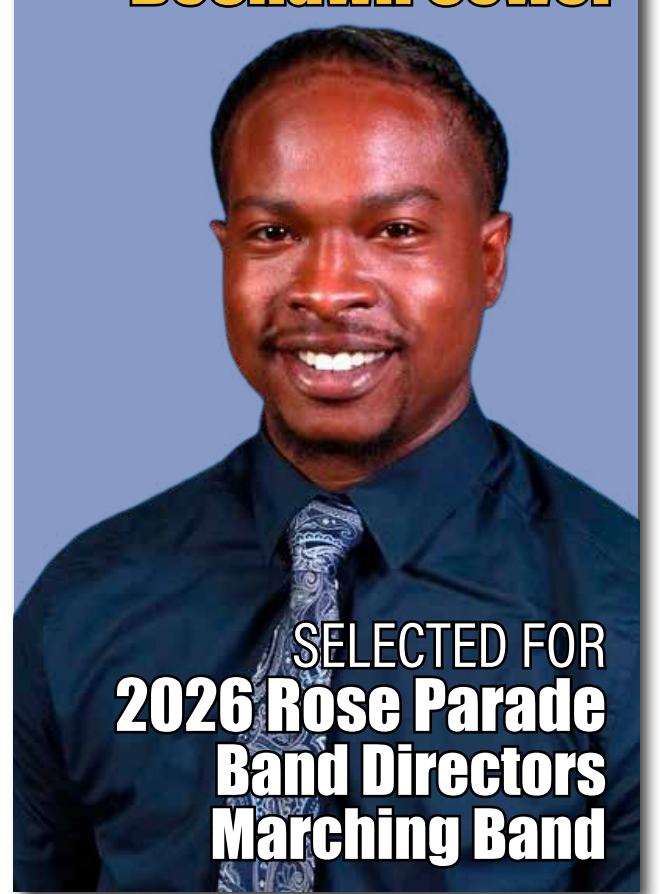
Congratulations!



RECEIVED
"B" Rating
FROM THE STATE IN IT'S
FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION

Congratulations!

DeShawn Sewer



SELECTED FOR
2026 Rose Parade
Band Directors
Marching Band

HAPPY Retirement



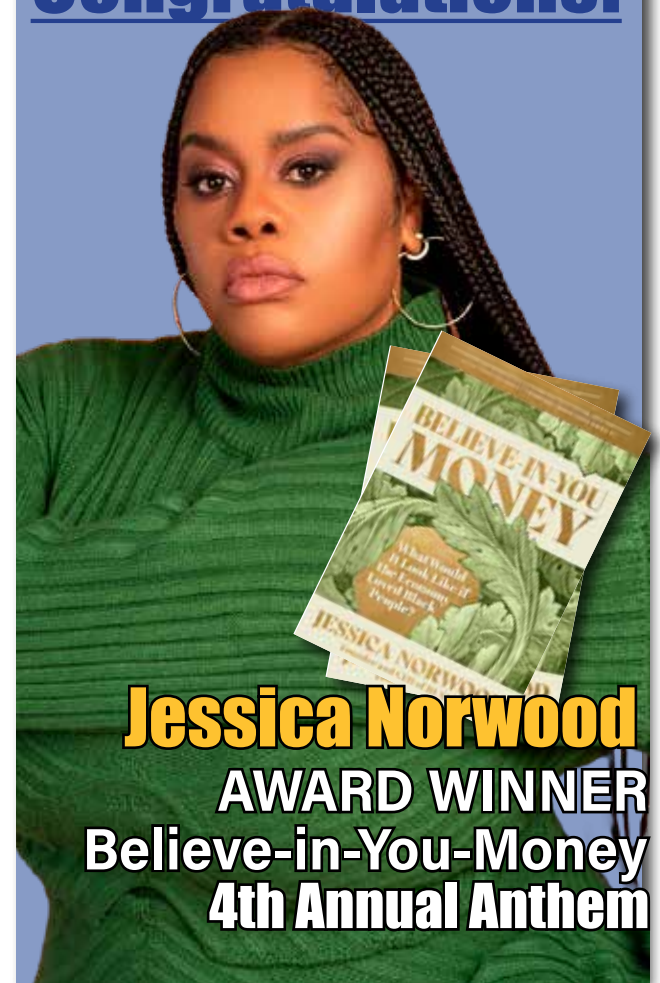
Gert Clark Laffiette
50 YEARS
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GRAMMY WINNER
Best Contemporary
Christian Music Album

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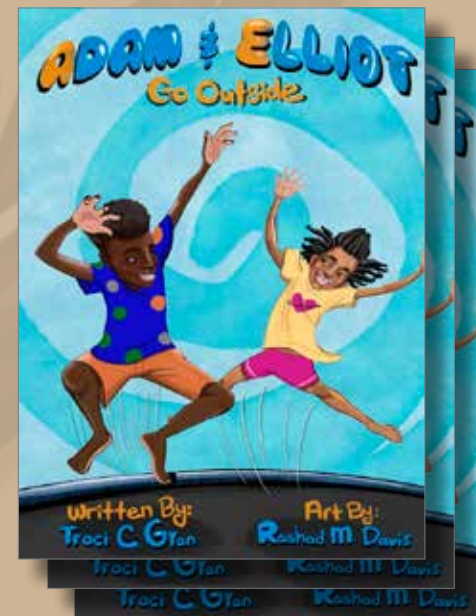
Jessica Norwood
AWARD WINNER
Believe-in-You-Money
4th Annual Anthem

Literary Corner...



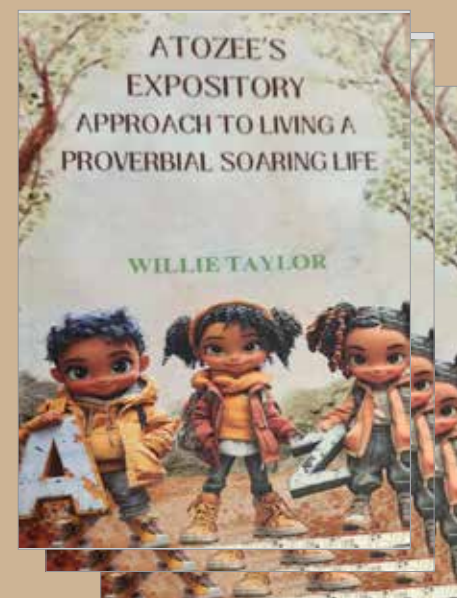
Traci C. Gyan

Traci C. Ryan is a author and motivational speaker. Her love of writing and public speaking began in her middle school forensics team and was honed through a B.S. in Public Relations and Marketing from the University of South Alabama. The Adam and Elliott Picture Book Series was born through her freelance writing and journaling process while on break from the corporate world to tackle her most important job - Motherhood. The series was created to ignite a love of books and reading in preschool and elementary-aged children. These fun, vibrant, and whole-sale stories are designed to entertain, as well as spark their imagination and encourage them to never sop exploring the world around them.♣



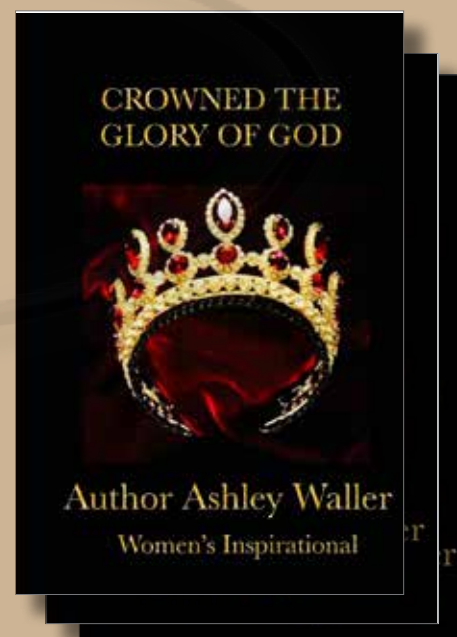
Willie Taylor

Willie Taylor grew up in the beautiful Montrose, Alabama, a neighborhood inhabited by affluent African-American and other affluent entrepreneurs and professional educators who adamantly encouraged and motivated her and shared their histories and advice that they thought she needed to know. She attended Spring Hill College and graduated with a degree in mathematics and English. Later, she returned and received an MBA. With this book, she draws from her vibrant upbringing and her experiences as a retired educator and blends personal stories with timeless proverbs to motivate and inspire readers to overcome challenges and embrace life's adventures. Readers are encouraged to cultivate their potential and love joyfully and purposefully with the help of our Creator. When you directly order this book from her (PO Box 763, Saraland, AL 36571) for \$20, she will forward a personalized autographed book.♣



Ashley Waller

This is a powerful extraordinary faith activation tool that will help you get closer to God knowing that you have a spiritual date with Him everyday. It will teach you how to hear from God and how to manifest into reality the life of abundance that was promised to you in the Bible. The book is a source of healing, restoration and inspiration to elevate your mind and literate your soul in order to prepare you spiritually, mentally and physically for your date with every day life and relationships. Ashley Waller, Queen Black the Poetess, is a native of Daphne. She is a poet, actress and storyteller. She is a a playwright for the stage play Miracles, and performed in the plays An Ocean in my Bones and Circles of Water. She's a member of Black On Black Rhyme Step2DaMic Poetry Troupe. Waller is a recording artist of poetry, a co-founder of African Culture Spoken Word Showcase, an inspirational speaker, and a minister at Bay Ridge Baptist Church in Daphne.♣



USA Health WELCOMES... Dr. Carla Benjamin

Dr. Benjamin, M.D., has been brought on board by USA Health to the Infectious Disease Division.

The native of Trinidad and Tobago, she attended medical school at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. She completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in infectious disease at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University in Brooklyn, New York. She moved on to rural medicine in southwest Kansas.



Dr Benjamin is board certified in internal medicine and infectious disease, and is also an assistant professor at the Frederick B. Whiddon College of Medicine. She is a member of the Infectious Disease Society of America, American College of Physicians, and Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association. She has experience treating Covid-19, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, Vibrio, Lyme disease, Parasitic Infections, Bone Infections, and more.

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

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP

Rid your home of unwanted appliances, computers, printers, household items, yard debris and more.

February 22, 2025 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 7195 Half Mile Rd, Irvington	March 22, 2025 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 1113 Hubert Pierce Rd, Mobile	ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: Appliances, Computers/Printers, Flat Screen TVs, Flat Screen Monitors, Household Items, Yard Debris, Scrap Metal, Clothing, Microwaves, Electronics and Tires (limited to 10). NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: Tubed TVs, Computer Monitors (CRT type), Roofing, Hazardous Waste, Junk Cars, Boats, Pressure Tanks, Waste Oil, Liquid Paint, Nails, Glass, Sharp Objects and Household Garbage.
April 19, 2025 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 12740 Hwy 43, N. Axis	May 10, 2025 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 7195 Half Mile Rd, Irvington	

*weather permitting

How it Works:
It's simple. Load your unwanted items into your vehicle. Then properly secure your load with a tarp, bungee cords or netting. Finally, drop off your unwanted items for free.

For More Information Please Call:
251-574-7867

www.mobilecountyalabama.gov/government/departments/environmental-enforcement

11th Annual Robert Hope Homemade Kite Event

Hope Community Center
850 Edwards Street
Mobile, AL 36610

Saturday, March 15, 2025
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM



The Robert Hope homemade kite event holds great significance as it is a long-standing tradition in Plateau and serves as a means to reunite people. The event, organized by the MCTS Alumni Association, takes place in March and is highly cherished by the community. It offers a chance for individuals of all ages to come together, enjoy themselves and partake in making homemade kite and activities that define our community events. We look forward to your presence and participation.

Please RSVP by March 1st at blueandwhite@mctswhippets.org or call 404-219-7890



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Creole History Highlights

Tracy Neely

PRESIDENT: MOBILE CREOLE CULTURAL
AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Shrove Tuesday

By the 15th century, it was called Shrove Tuesday. The final day of Shrovetide, one of those European feasts that we Americans confuse easily and dismiss often. Yet, as Catholics we should really have a better grip on our history since the Church established so much of it. The word “shrove” comes from the act of shriving or confessing all of one’s sins. When Catholicism was the dominant religion, in early Christian history, Lent was established to separate the two major feast days of the Catholic Church, Christmas and Easter. Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, provided a time of focus, fasting, and confession that led up to the joy of the Resurrection. Since then, tradition has evolved with the customs of the places that celebrate it. English Catholics celebrate it as Pancake Day, the French developed it as Mardi Gras, and Latin countries revel in Carnival.

For most Mobilians, “Mardi Gras” is the first introduction to French language. Mobile is, after all, the birthplace of American Mardi Gras, and we clung to this name, not by accident. The French were here in 1702, bringing their Mardi Gras traditions with them, just not on the grand scale we experience today. It more likely involved the making of sweet breads or pancakes and overindulging in foodstuffs forbidden during Lent—perhaps Bienville himself cooked for the event. Unfortunately, no documentation has been found that mentions this. If Spain had left more of a mark on our Catholic celebrations, we might be celebrating with Jueves Lardero (Fat Thursday) which culminates in Carnival on Fat Tuesday. But by the time Spain was occupying Mobile Territory in 1783, the French were already entrenched with their customs. Merriam-Webster’s etymology for carnival literally means “removal of meat” derived from Latin carne (flesh) and Latin levare (to remove). So, as Catholics, we prepare to fast from all things meat. This includes milk, butter, cheese, eggs—any animal product. How else does one get rid of these foods without wasting them? Make delightful foods such as pancakes. Some scholars would argue that the word carnival actually comes from a Roman phrase Carrus Navalis, a Spring celebration of Roman times marked by launching a wooden ship decorated with flowers to honor the Goddess Isis. My Catholic roots tell me to stick to the first argument.

History tells us Joe Cain brought Mardi Gras back after the Civil War, dressed as Chief Slacabamorinico, parading down the street. That is partly true. He did revive a parading tradition that had stopped during the Civil War. He attempted to restore some revelry in a tired southern town during Reconstruction. He breathed life back into those old mystic organizations of well-monied men such as the Cowbellion de Rakin Society and others that had paraded prior to the war. But while Joe Cain’s wife, Elizabeth Alabama Rabby, was of French Creole ancestry traced back to Bordeaux, it wasn’t Mardi Gras as a Catholic tradition he intended to create. Ol’ Slac just wanted a parade. And timing was on his side. As it happened, according to an article found in the History Museum of Mobile that Joseph S. Cain appears to have written, the thought occurred to him on that Monday before Ash Wednesday while visiting in New Orleans, attending the Fireman’s parade. It just happened to work out that way. He came back to Mobile and paraded the next day, which happened to be Mardi Gras Day, transforming Mobile’s celebration into something uniquely American.

Everywhere else, it’s just Tuesday.♣

MCHD Weekend
“DRIVE THRU” RABIES CLINICS

FEBRUARY 2025

FEB 01 • 10:00 AM to NOON
Little Flower Catholic School • 2103 Government Street (Mobile)

FEB 08 • 10:00AM TO NOON
Mobile County Animal Shelter
7665 Howell’s Ferry Road (Mobile)

FEB 08 • 1:00PM TO 3:00PM
Pet Supplies Plus
803 Hillcrest Road (Mobile)

FEB 15 • 1:00PM TO 3:00PM
Saint Elmo Feed & Seed Store
9001 Highway 90 W. (Mobile)

FEB 22 • 10:00AM TO NOON
Dauphin Island Town Hall
1011 Bienville Blvd (Dauphin Island)

VACCINES ARE \$12 PER PET
***PAYABLE IN CASH ONLY**

RABIES QUARANTINE FACT SHEET
www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/assets/RabiesQuarantineFact-Sheet.pdf

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PORTRAITS in BLACK

Hiram Rhodes Revels

America's First Black Senator Hiram Rhodes Revels was born free on September 27, 1827 in Fayetteville, North Carolina to free people of color. His ancestors obtained freedom for the family due to their participation in the American Revolution. His parents were of African American, European, and Native American ancestry. His father was a Baptist preacher and his initial education experience was administered by a local Black woman.

At the age of 11, he went to live with his older brother in Lincolnton, North Carolina, where he apprenticed in Barbering in his brother's shop, a steady trade for Blacks during that time.

Revels attended Beach Grove Quaker Seminary, founded by Quakers in Union County, Indiana. He was ordained in 1845 and served in the African Methodist Episcopal Church as a minister and teacher throughout the Midwest in the states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, Tennessee, and Missouri. He was once imprisoned in Missouri in 1854 for "preaching the gospel to Negroes". Although he voted in Ohio, he further studied religion from 1855 to 1857 at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. Revels became the principal at a Baltimore, Maryland, Black high school where he was also a minister at a Methodist Episcopal Church.

He joined the Union Army's Colored Troops in 1863 where he served as a chaplain and he helped to recruit and organize two Black Union Regiments in Maryland and Missouri. He was a participant in the Battle of Vicksburg in Vicksburg, Mississippi. After the war in 1865, Revels was briefly assigned to churches in Leavenworth, Kansas, and New Orleans.



In 1866, he became permanent pastor at a church in Natchez, Mississippi, where he settled with his wife and five daughters. He continued his ministerial work and established schools for Black children.

During Reconstruction in 1868, Revels was elected alderman.

On February 03, 1870, the 15th Amendment prohibited states from

disenfranchising voters "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Senators weren't elected by popular vote until 1913, so Revels was elected by the State Legislature. He went in as a Republican, which was the Party of Abraham Lincoln. The Republicans of that time were vastly different from what we see today. In fact, the Democrats of that time were mostly made up of Southerners with Confederate loyalties that opposed Lincoln, and were Pro-Slavery, and who, with the election of Andrew Johnson as president, worked diligently to end Reconstruction and ushered in Jim Crow Laws across the south. The seat Revels was appointed to had been vacant since the Civil War and expired a year later on March 03, 1871. He then became the first president of Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College (Alcorn State University) where he also taught Philosophy. He took a leave of absence in 1872 to become the Mississippi Secretary of State with that ending in 1873. He retired from Alcorn in 1882.

He remained active as a minister in Holly Springs, Mississippi, and taught Theology there at Shaw College (now Rust College) which was founded in 1866. He died on January 16, 1901, while attending a church conference in Aberdeen, Mississippi. He was survived by his wife, Phoebe, and eight children. He is buried in Holly Springs' Hillcrest Cemetery.♣



Tanene Jackson
TRICHOLOGIST;
OWNER/OPERATOR of LOCS OF SOUL, LLC

In Search of Community...

The year is 2025. Resolutions have been made and goals have been said. Vision boards and affirmations have become part of a mantra. The word that comes to mind is COMMUNITY.

Community is the one thing we all need and/or want in our lives. Our “tribe.” Community is the “thing” that brings everyone together good, bad, and indifferent.

What is a community? What does it mean? Who is community? Is it a fleeting concept that is limited and exclusive? Is community personal or private? According to Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary (second edition, 1979), community means a society of people having common rights and privileges or common interests.

Locs of Soul, LLC is a dread/loc hair salon that promotes natural hair, plants, ecofriendly lifestyle choices, and knowledge. How do they intertwine? It’s in the roots. Roots are my community and that is my tribe. My community..In my opinion, community are things in life that span beyond the superficial. The basic things in life that make us smile and feel good. It surpasses age limits and financial boundaries. It’s the “glue” that binds individuals and or groups together, sharing commonalities. Everyone has a tribe.

As people, there are 4 things that bring communities together no matter race, ethnicity, gender, or religion:

1. FOOD
2. MUSIC
3. DANCE
4. PLANTS/ENVIRONMENT

No matter the age, we can all learn, like, and / or relate to at least one of these items. These are the things that will allow people to have those much needed woosah moments. We are all energetically interconnected. People may agree to disagree on topics of sorts, but when you get to the core of the humanistic experience... we need our tribe. Going forward into 2025 and beyond, I ask of you to share a smile, food, a story, a bit of knowledge, a hug even. Let us make music and dance in spirit to what vibrates to our spirit, allow light to shine where there is plenty of darkness.

So, I ask you to explore your “roots”, find and join your community.❖

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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.
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There is Always More Than One Winning Strategy

Many of Y’ALL are missing the point on the brilliance of Deion “Coach Prime” Sanders. As a collegiate football player for Florida State, he researched the NFL salaries and realized his position was under-compensated. He knew that the NFL is an entertainment package. Entertainment rewards those who draw the audiences. So hate or love him he decided to amp up his persona, Prime Time. If you are a fan of wrestling you realize that fans pay to see their favorite star AND the nemesis.

Fast forward to the Colorado Buffaloes. The Buffaloes record from 2002 to 2022 was 104 wins, 150 losses, no winning seasons since 2016. They were not attracting any four or five star players. Deion knew from his experiences at HBCU Jackson State University, that his personal brand and NFL Hall of Fame status were a major attraction. So what did he do? Amped up the image. Some call it conceit. I call it brilliance for two reasons, 1) Deion Sanders the man focuses on mentoring youth. Coach Prime is the revenue attraction.

Before I state my second reason, allow me to say this, whether in corporate or sports, it takes time and money to develop a high performing team. By the end of 2023 part of his plan was working: While revamping the team, broadcasting on national outlets averaged 7.2 million viewers, increasing multimedia rights by 51%. There was a major increase in ticket sales, selling out home games and on the road. Alumni donations, partnerships and sponsorships increased dramatically. The major point: There was a \$113.2 million economic impact from the six home games. That means local businesses revenue and sales taxes increased. Critics may be articulating his demise or ‘conceit’. But collegiate and professional teams are copying his social media strategies. And whether they will admit it or not, many of the colleges are seeking ways to increase their revenue with similar models.

MY POINT...

Before jumping on the bandwagon review the motivation of those speaking and the outcomes of those who they are trying to demote.

As Always Let’s Be Greater❖



**The quality of a man's life
is in direct proportion
to his commitment to excellence,
regardless of his chosen
field of endeavor.**

—Vince Lombardi—





Living In Bliss

Debra Braggs

VETERAN FASHION COLUMNIST
AND LIFESTYLE REPORTER

I can remember back in the day when my grandmother used to say “My soul is tired.”

Being physically exhausted and emotionally spent are two totally different things. When your soul is tired, your spirit is drained and your heart is heavy. There are moments when you feel as if you have nothing left to give. Most black women can relate because our mothers, grandmothers or great-grandmothers often explained (or exemplified) these moments to us when we were children. Unfortunately, this is the state of the black woman in America today : we are tired and often feel unappreciated. Historically there have been expectations placed on Black women to be the backbone for everyone around them. From changing the direction of politics to fighting social ills, today’s black women is screaming “I’m tired.”

After the last election of President Donald Trump, many have noticed the social-media campaign asking Black women to “rest.” Many women say “don’t call me for your causes,” “I’m not coming,” “It’s time for a sabbatical.” For the next four years women influencers and community leaders are saying it’s time to change the narrative. The expectations placed on Black women to be “saviours” in moments of distress has taken its toll.

An article published in Forbes magazine last July, stated that Black women everywhere were watching how society was treating Presidential candidate Kamala Harris and the unparalleled level of scrutiny and venom the first Black woman Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson experienced. “America has a nasty habit of using Black women when it’s convenient only to chew them up and spit them out” the article stated. Recent events have reiterated Malcolm X’s painful reminder that Black women are the most disrespected and unprotected group in America.

While the memes are entertaining, including the recent photo published of our Forever First Lady Michelle Obama with the caption: “I ain’t going,” (referring to Trumps inauguration ceremony), the truth is far from funny. Black women are screaming for validation and respect. According to the medical community, emotional exhaustion can lead to a myriad of health conditions, some of which can be deadly. Emotional exhaustion is a treatable condition and it must be taken seriously. According to Healthline.com, here are some common signs of emotional exhaustion: Feelings of depression, including a persistent sad, low, or hopeless mood; lingering feelings of anxiety; difficulty caring about anything; a sense of detachment, cynicism or pessimism; anger or irritability; difficulty managing emotions; a sense of dread; decline in motivation or productivity; difficulty concentrating, remembering information and putting thoughts together. If you recognize any of these symptoms, it’s time to make some lifestyle changes. You are worth it and self-care must become a priority.

Here are a few tips to help you cope from [Healthline.com](https://www.healthline.com):

- Take a break: Time to rest and recharge can go a long way toward easing feelings of mental exhaustion.
- Take an extended vacation. Book an hour of me-time each day. Try relaxation techniques like yoga, tai chi, aromatherapy and muscle relaxation.
- Finally, pamper yourself. Make this the year of “self-priority. You deserve it sis. Until next month: create your bliss!♣

Bishop State

Bishop State, USA Agree to Support Culinary Arts Graduates

A specialized articulation agreement between Bishop State Community College and the University of South Alabama will provide a seamless pathway for culinary arts graduates to transfer associate degree credits toward a bachelor’s degree in hospitality and tourism management. This agreement marks an important step in expanding academic opportunities for students interested in advancing their careers in the hospitality and tourism industry. A degree in hospitality and tourism management prepares students for a range of careers in the hospitality, tourism, and service industries by providing a mix of business, management, and customer service skills specific to sectors such as hotels, resorts, restaurants, event planning, travel agencies, and tourism organizations.

Under the agreement, Bishop State students who complete an Associate in Applied Science degree in Culinary Arts can transfer up to 58 credit hours toward USA’s Hospitality and Tourism Management program, which requires a total of 120 credit hours for graduation. This credit transfer allowance ensures that Bishop State graduates enter USA’s program with a strong academic foundation, saving them time and resources as they work toward completing their bachelor’s degree.

The articulation agreement includes a program equivalency table that outlines specific transferable courses, ensuring students understand exactly how their credits apply to USA’s degree requirements. ♣

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BLACK LIVES MATTER

Tommy Green

Facebook Blogger
Former Editor for
the Mobile Beacon

A Letter to Senate Democratic Leadership

Senator Chuck Schumer and Senator Dick Durbin...

I will continue to contact you, because the Democratic Party has become too comfortable when the Republicans have lied and manipulated communication in the country. They control the majority of power in Washington. After Donald Trump refused to show courtesy to President Joe Biden, I was aghast when he invited him to the White House after he disrespected the Constitution of the country and incited an insurrection. This is why a large number of youth doesn't support the Democrats, they believe that the Democratic Party will not hold Republicans accountable for their misdeeds. Senator Mitch McConnell refused to allow Merrick Garland a hearing for a seat on the Supreme Court, and Democrats acted as though his action was normal. So, now the Republicans have six seats on the Supreme Court. Republican leaders who didn't participate in the insurrection haven't condemned the ones that participated. Apparently, they supported the ones who supported the coup d'etat.

On December 30, 2024, Julia Shapero of The Hill reported, "A Former US Lieutenant General Warns Musk Poses National Security Risks." Retired Lt. Gen. Russell Honore warned Sunday that Elon Musk, the tech billionaire who has become intricately involved in President Trump's transition, may pose national security risks due to his ties to China and Russia. He pointed to the Tesla and SpaceX CEO's business interests in China, as well as his reported conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "The fact that Mr. Musk spent a quarter of a billion dollars to help re-elect Mr. Trump does not give the incoming White House the license to look the other way at the national security risks he may pose," Honoré wrote in a New York Times op-ed. If Mr. Trump and his appointees mean what they say about getting tough on America's adversaries, then they will act on this matter without delay," he continued. "There is too much at stake to ignore what's right in front of them." Sen. Schumer, why are you and others in the Democratic Party waiting for a retired general to raise issues that you all should be raising?

On January 21, 2025, Alanna Durkin, Michael Kunzelman, and Ashraf Khalil, Associated Press (AP) wrote, "Trump Pardons Upend Massive January 06 Prosecution by Freeing Rioters and Dismissing Cases." How does a political party of institutionalists compete against a party that will use all means necessary to gain and hold onto power? Lyndon Baines Johnson, former President of the United States was the last Democrat, who was strong forceful, and not afraid to challenge the Republican Party.♣

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Andreda Randelson

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Steppin' Out has now started an Obituary Section to honor our Loved Ones who have passed on to Glory. Packages (3) are priced from Basic to Premium and each package can be customized based on client need. For more information, contact us at info@steppinoutmobile.com or (251) 217-1220.

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Mardi Gras

2025 PARADE SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

01 Saturday	Krewe de la Dauphine.....	1:00 pm	D. Isle
08 Saturday	Dauphin Island People's	1:00 pm	.....	D. Isle
14 Friday	Conde Cavaliers	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
15 Saturday	Bayport Parading Society	2:00 pm	.....	Rte A
	Mystic DJ Riders	2:00 pm	.....	Rte A
	Order of Rolling River	2:00 pm	.....	DIP
	Pharaohs Mystic Society	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
	Conde Explorers.....	7:00 pm	.....	Rte A
16 Sunday	Massacre Island Secret Society	6:30 pm	.....	D. Isle
20 Thursday	Order of the Polka Dots	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
21 Friday	Order of the Inca	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
	Apollo's Mystic Ladies	6:45 pm	.....	Dap
22 Saturday	Mobile Mystics	1:00 pm	.....	Rte A
	Mobile Mystical Revelers.....	1:00 pm	.....	Rte A
	Mobile Mystical Friends.....	1:00 pm	.....	Rte A
	Maids of Mirth.....	6:30 pm	.....	Rte G
	Knights of Ecor Rouge.....	6:30 pm	.....	Fhope
	Order of Butterfly Maidens.....	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
	Krewe of Merry Mates.....	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
23 Sunday ...	Neptune's Daughter	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
	Order of Isis	7:00 pm	.....	Rte A
24 Monday ..	Order of Venus	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
	Miracle On the Bay	6:30 pm	.....	Rte
	Order of Many Faces	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
25 Tuesday ..	Order of LaShe's	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
	Order of Olympia.....	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
27 Thursday	Mystic Stripers	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
28 Friday	Crewe of Columbus	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
	Krewe de Secondline.....	6:30 pm	.....	Rte A
	Maids of Jubilee	6:45 pm	.....	Fhope

01 MARCH/Saturday

11:00 am	.....	Foley	Foley
12:00 pm	.....	Krewe of Goats.....	Pchard
12:00 pm	.....	Pritchard Carnival Assoc.....	Pchard
12:00 pm	.....	Krewe of Sparta.....	S'land
12:00 pm	.....	MCA Floral	Rte A
12:00 pm	.....	Knights of Mobile.....	Rte A
12:00 pm	.....	Mobile Mystical Ladies	Rte A
12:00 pm	.....	Order of Angels.....	Rte A

12:00 pm	.....	Joy of Life	Rte A
2:00 pm	.....	Krewe of Mullet Mates.....	M. Pte
5:45 pm	.....	Mystics of Time	Rte H
6:00 pm	.....	Mystics of Pleasure	OB
6:30 pm	.....	Knights of Cote d'Azur.....	Loxley
6:45 pm	.....	Shadow Barons	Dap

02 SUNDAY JOE CAIN DAY

1:00 pm	.....	Fort Morgan Parading Society.....	Ft. Morgan
2:00 pm	.....	Arrival of King Elexis.....	Rte E
		(at foot of Government Street)	
2:29 pm	.....	Loyal Order of the Firetruck	Dap
2:30 pm	.....	Joe Cain Procession.....	Rte A
5:00 pm	.....	Le Krewe de Bienville.....	Rte A

03 MONDAY LUNAR DAY

12:00 pm	.....	MCA King Felix III.....	Rte A
12:00 pm	.....	Floral.....	Rte
3:00 pm	.....	MLK Bus. & Civic.....	Rte D
3:00 pm	.....	MLK Monday Mystic Adult.....	Rte D
3:00 pm	.....	Northside Merchants.....	Rte D
6:30 pm	.....	Order of Doves.....	Rte F
6:30 pm	.....	Infant Mystics.....	Rte F
6:45 pm	.....	FOrder of Mystic Magnolias	F'hope

04 FAT TUESDAY Mardi Gras Day

10:00 am	.....	Gulf Shores.....	GS
10:00 am	.....	Order of Athena	Rte A
12:30 pm	.....	Knights of Revelry	Rte A
12:30 pm	.....	King Felix III.....	Rte A
12:30 pm	.....	Comic Cowboys	Rte A
2:00 pm	.....	Orange Beach	OB
2:00 pm	.....	MAMGA Mammoth.....	Rte B
6:00 pm	.....	Order of Myths	Rte C

Conference Coming to Mobile...

Students, thought leaders, community college alumni, and those who are interested in Historically Black Community Colleges (HBCC) and Predominately Black Community Colleges (PBCC) spaces across the country are invited to attend the 2025 EmpowerED Conference... hosted by Alabama Possible.

FEBRUARY 11-12
THE BATTLE HOUSE
Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa

This event fosters space to develop a platform for collaboration, inspiration, and knowledge sharing among leaders, educators, and students within the HBCC/PBCC network. More than 150 college professionals attended last year.

For additional info, including a video from the 2024 Conference, log on to <https://empowered.swell.give> ♣

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MANY WHO STARTED WITH YOU
WONT FINISH WITH YOU.
SUCCESS NAVIGATOR



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BLACK AMERICAN EDUCATION

Joseph Mitchell PhD
CITIZEN MUSICIAN & POLITICIAN



Black American Politics

Starting the new year off right, I backtracked to read some good articles from 2024. They are condensed and summarized below under someone else's pen.

Diverse schools feature differences in ethnicity, socioeconomic class, religion, reading level, athletic ability, background, gender, personality, and much more. Strong Doctorate of Education (EdD) programs teach educators to value the unique aspects of what makes each student different, and helps them embrace those differences in the classroom.

An in-depth research review of dozens of other studies on diversity — conducted by The Century Foundation, a New York-based think tank—found that having different and divergent perspectives can create positive learning outcomes. Those outcomes, explored below, can have benefits that reflect well beyond students' graduation and can impact their lives going forward.

Diversity Improves Cognitive Skills and Critical Thinking

The presence of diversity in the classroom allows students to consider perspectives and opinions beyond those they've already formed or were shaped in early life by family and friends. By presenting students with viewpoints far different from their own, it gives them the opportunity to think critically about their own beliefs and examine the world in fresh ways. As noted by an article in Scientific American, exposure to diversity alters the way individuals think by promoting creativity and innovation, as well as decision-making and problem-solving skills. As the article summarizes, "Diversity jolts us into cognitive action in ways that homogeneity simply does not."

Exposure to Diversity Helps Students Enter Adulthood

When students enter the professional world, they join a vast and diverse workforce. Interacting with people of all different backgrounds and mindsets can present a challenge without prior exposure to diversity, especially at a younger age. Companies are taking note of their employees' ability to handle diversity with grace and maturity; 96 percent of major employers, according to the Century Foundation, say it is vital that employees are able to work with people from diverse backgrounds.

Diversity Prepares Students for Citizenship

As part of the Century Foundation's research study on diversity, the authors reviewed 27 different studies about the effects of diversity on people's willingness to interact with and improve their local community—a concept known as civic engagement. The study found that experiences with diversity in college do lead to increased civic engagement. This indicates the more involved citizens are with their government and political landscape, and the more educated they become about government processes, the more informed decisions they can make about how they are governed. As the U.S. Department of Education notes, students' experiences with diversity help mold them into more engaged citizens. ♣

Mark Your Calendar!

FEBRUARY 2025

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

4th Annual Black History Month Celebration

feat. Coahoma Community College Choir, Christ Church Cathedral, 02/09 @10am

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

LODA ArtWalk - Downtown Mobile, every 2nd Friday

Spoken Word of Mobile Open Mic Night - Toulminville Branch Library
Every 3RD Monday @6pm

New To Medicare Free Monthly Educational Seminar - Area Agency on Aging, GM&O Building First Floor Conference Room,
1ST Tuesday Monthly

AARP Tax Prep - Ben May Library, Every Wednesday & Friday
02/05 - 04/11 @10am to 2pm

Growth Alliance Task Force - Mobile Chamber; 02/04 @Noon

"Fort Tombeche: On the Louisiana Frontier," by Sarah Coffey-
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; USA Archeology Museum
02/04 @4:30pm

Africatown Collective Community Meeting, Green Grove Missionary Church, 02/04 @ 5:30 pm

St. Mary's 97th Dedication Anniversary, 02/05 @ 5:30 pm

African Americans & Labor: Black History Celebration - presented by
City of Mobile; Hope Community Center; 02/07 @10am

REVOLUTIONARY LOVE presented by Step2DaMic Poets
4805 Moffett Road; 02/08 @8pm

"Old Mobile and the Archeology of French Colonial Louisiana"
by Gregory Waselkov, PhD; USA Archeology Museum
02/11 @4pm

2025 EmpowerED Conference - hosted by Alabama Possible,
Battle House Hotel, 02/11-12

Black Pardi Crawl - Downtown Mobile, 02/22

Shabby Chic Mardi Gras Ball - The Grounds, 02/28 @8pm

CONCERTS/MUSIC

Celebrity Southern Soul Showcase - Elk's Club on State Street,
Every 1st Sunday @7pm

Joe Lewis - Renaissance Hotel, Every Friday - Sunday @8pm

Thirsty Thursdays Live jazz Jam Sessions - Kazoola's, Every Thursday

Delfeayo Marsalis & The Uptown Jazz Orchestra - Snug Harbor
New Orleans, 02/05

Kevin Hart - Mahalia Jackson Theatre-New Orleans, 02/07

Katt Williams - BJCC Legacy Arena-Birmingham, 02/08

50 Cent, Bill Bellamy, Chico Bean, DC Young Fly - Mahalia Jackson Theatre-New Orleans, 02/08

Kevin Hart - Saenger Theatre-New Orleans, 02/8

NoCap, FCG Heem, Hurricane Wisdom, Baby Shoota - Saenger Theatre,
02/11 @ 8 pm

Gary Owen - IP Casino Resort and Spa-Biloxi, 02/14

Bobby Rush - Ground Zero Blues Club-Biloxi, 02/14

Mary J. Blige, Ne-Yo - Smoothie King Center-New Orleans, 02/14

Mary J. Blige, Ne-Yo - BJCC Legacy Arena-Birmingham, 02/15

KRS-One, Merry Widow, 02/19

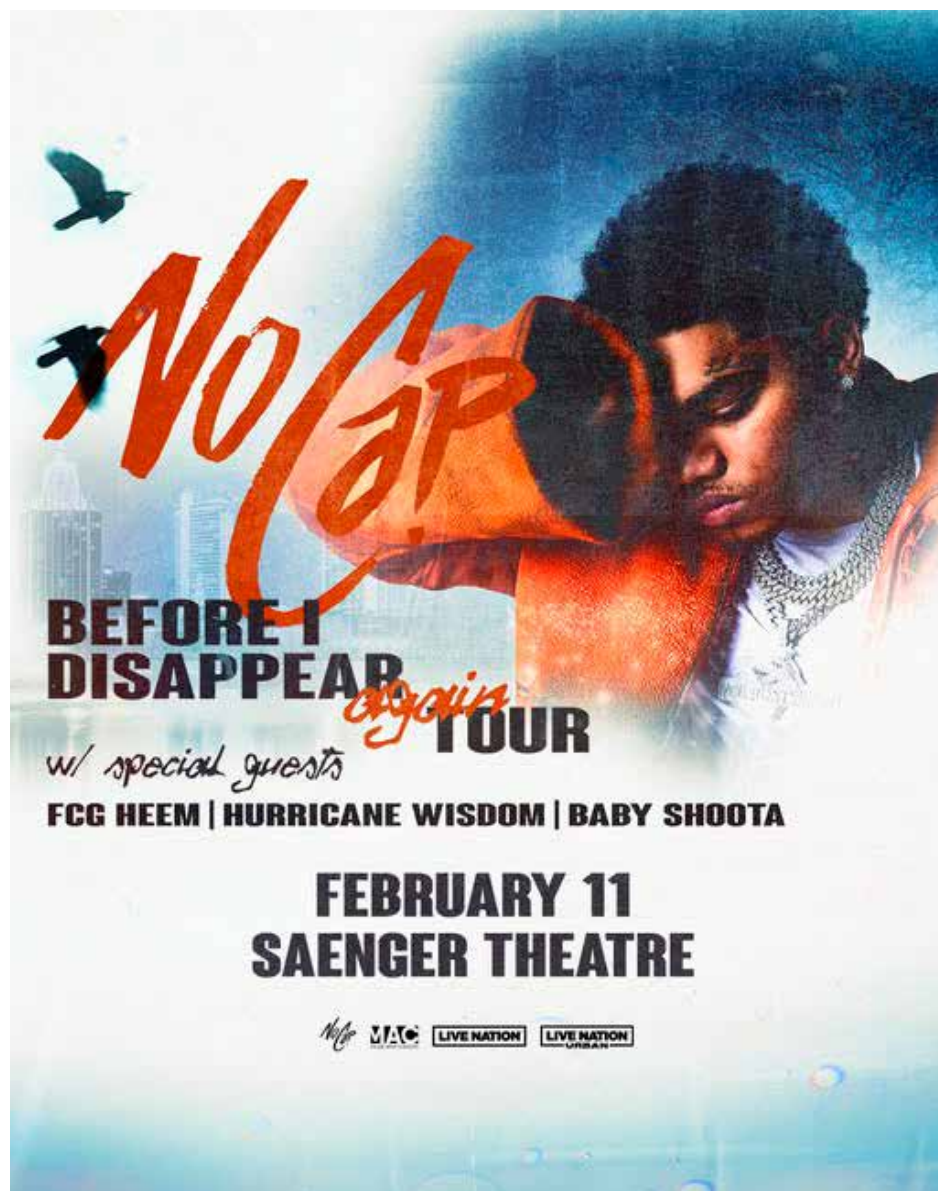
Bone Thugs-n-Harmony - Vinyl Music Hall-Pensacola, 02/20

Ja Rule, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, The Soul Rebels,
New Breed Brass Band, Big Boi, Cardinal Sons, Mardi Gras World-
New Orleans, 02/22

Roman Street - Saenger Theatre-Pensacola, 02/23

Big Freedia - Tipitina's-New Orleans, 02/27

Multi N Funk Live - Brikyard Dauphin Street, 02/27 @9pm



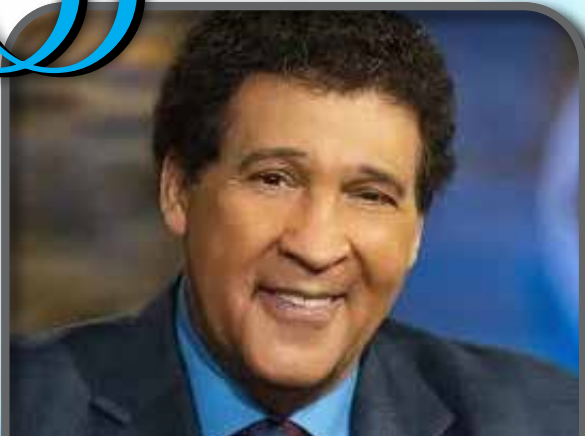
PASSINGS

FEBRUARY 2025



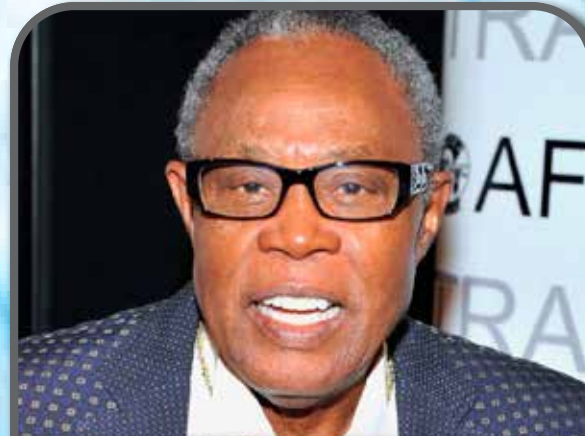
Jimmy Carter • 100

GEORGIA GOVERNOR (1971-1975)
PRESIDENT (1977-1981)
NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATE (2002)



Greg Gumbel • 78

SPORTSCASTER
CBS Sports
Cancer



Sam Moore • 89

SINGER
Sam & Dave
Soul Man • Hold On
Surgery Complications

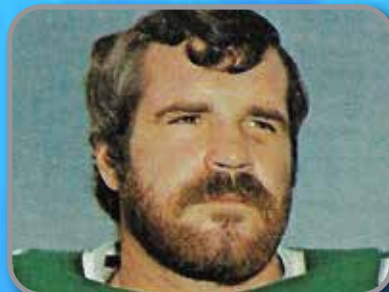


ALFA ANDERSON • 78

SINGER
Chic, Luther Vandross
Dionne Warwick



BLACK BART • 76
NWA WRESTLER
Colon Cancer



BILL BERGEY • 79
NFL PLAYER
Bengals • Eagles
Cancer



JOHN CAPODICE • 83
ACTOR

Speed • Ace Ventura
Pet Detective • Independence Day



LINDA LAVIN • 87
ACTRESS
TONY AWARD WINNER
Alice
Lung Cancer



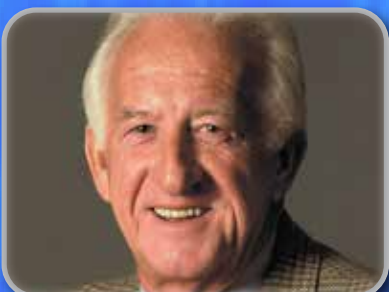
CHARLES PERSON • 82
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST
Freedom Riders



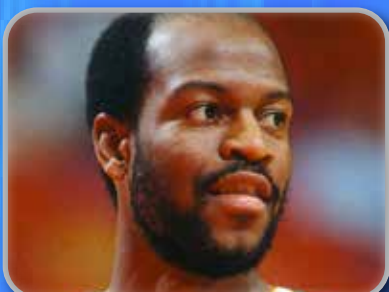
TONY SLATTERY • 65
ACTOR
The Crying Game
Heart Attack



MIKE TOTH
ANIMATOR
Hercules • Tarzan • Mulan



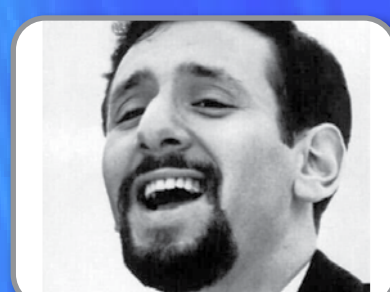
BOB UECKER • 90
MLB PLAYER: Cardinals
BROADCASTER
ACTOR: Miller Lite
Lung Cancer



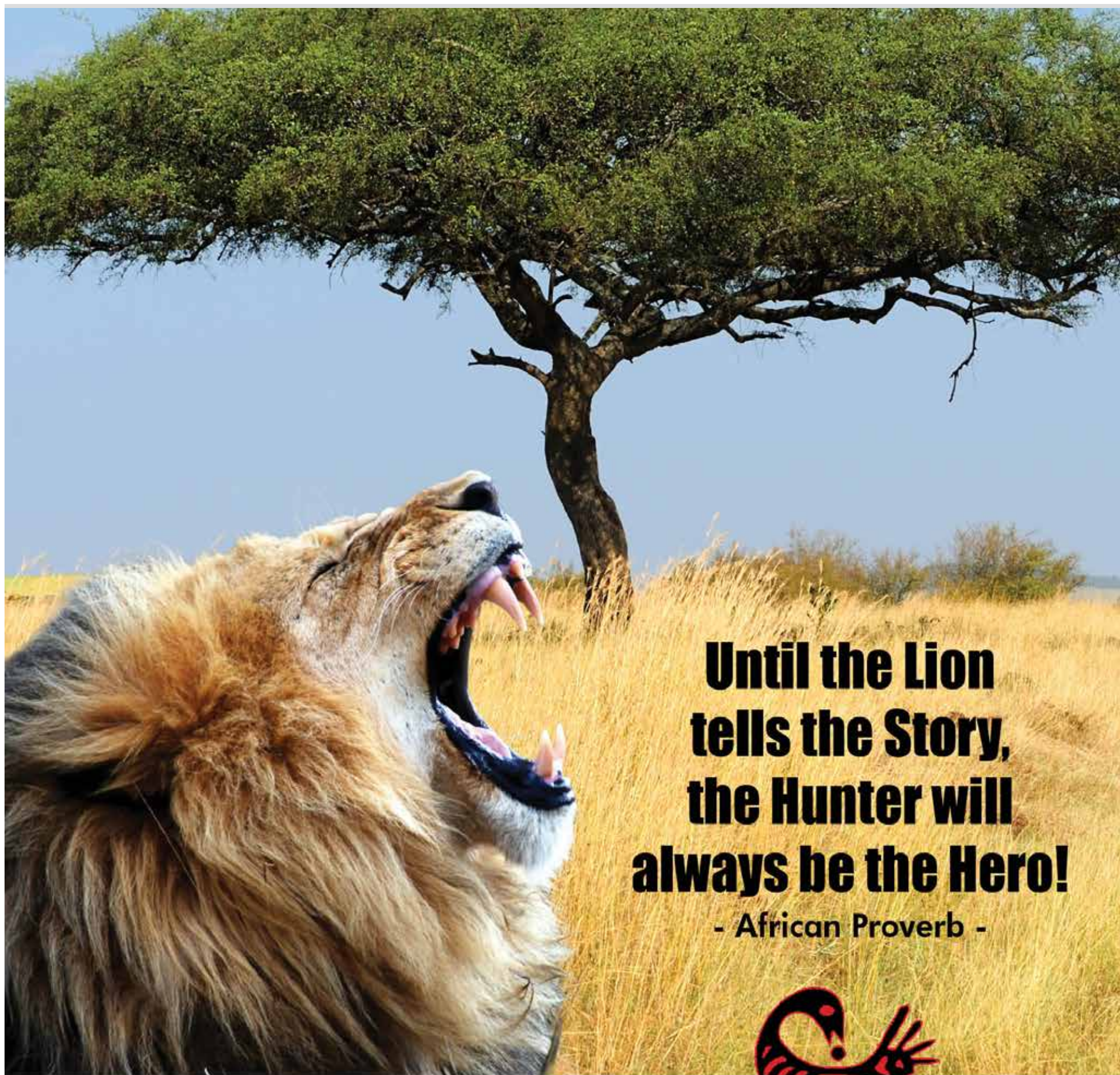
GUS WILLIAMS • 71
NBA PLAYER
Warriors • Bullets
Supersonic
Stroke



BRENTON WOODS • 83
SINGER
Just Gimme Some
Kind of Sign Girl



PETER YARROW • 86
SINGER
Puff the Magic Dragon
Peter, Paul & Mary
Bladder Cancer



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

- African Proverb -



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

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