

Steppin' ut *News!*

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

VOLUME 25
ISSUE 04

ARTS • CULTURE • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY

JANUARY
2025



**I'm a
FIGHTER!**



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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Will Drop...

FEBRUARY 2025





Black Film Festival

The 92nd Division Buffalo Soldiers of World War II will present their first Film Festival at the City of Prichard Auditorium on Saturday, February 01 at 2 pm. The festival is designed to generate national and international news as the city has some of the most had some of the most historic and decorated Black men of World War II. Some of those men are still living and doing well.

The first movie of the festival is a 63 minute documentary entitled "INSIDE BUFFALO". It includes a clip of a 1944 dogfight by the Tuskegee Airman who shot down the first WWII Jet Aircraft. This award winning feature film, by filmmaker Fred Kuwornu, tells the story of the 92nd Buffalo Division of the U.S. Army. This was the all African American segregated combat unit that fought with outstanding heroism in Italy during World War II. They were called Buffalo Soldiers, named after the 10th Cavalry Regiment formed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on September 21, 1866. That nickname came from the Native American Tribes who fought against those all Black Regiments on the western frontier. These men fought two wars; one against the Nazis and the other against racial discrimination, and those that were blessed enough to survive found that their contributions went unnoticed upon their return to the United States. Former President Barack Obama and Family also make a cameo appearance in the film.

The festival will feature three additional films in this inaugural year that will be shown in various locations across the area that are still being confirmed. The featured films will include the following:

Buck and The Preacher

STARRING SIDNEY POITIER, HARRY BELAFONTE AND RUBY DEE. Released in 1972, the movie features Poitier as a ex-soldier turned trail guide who leads former slave to the West after the civil war. He's joined by his wife played by Dee, and a conman preacher played by Belafonte.

In The Heat of the Night

STARRING SIDNEY POITIER AND ROD STEIGER
This 1967 film features Poitier as Virgil Tibbs, a Philadelphia police detective, and Steiger, as a racist police chief in Sparta, Mississippi, where Tibbs is initially accused of a murder in that town. Once he's cleared, Tibbs reluctantly agrees to help solve the case. This film won five (5) Academy Awards and 3 Golden Globe Awards. It was also nominated for two (2) additional Academy Awards.

The Wereth Eleven

A World War II documentary about eleven African American soldiers who were overrun by German forces in Wereth, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. The soldiers were from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, a racially segregated unit, and their position was compromised by a local resident who reported there whereabouts to a SS scouting party. These soldiers had been separated from the rest of the battalion after a battle and sought shelter in the town. Once captured, the group was taken to a field where they were tortured and shot on December 17, 1944. Their frozen bodies were discovered six weeks later when the allies re-captured the area. This film tells the stories of all involved including the convictions of those involved and the honors bestowed on the massacred eleven.♣



Fighting and Fixing Others

Dianco Williams

SELF-PROCLAIMED FIXER

Williams she says that what angers her the most about having cancer-- she can't fix it. "I'm a fixer by nature. And it was tough for me to accept that I can't fix cancer. Williams says that from her professional life to her home, among family and friends, she is known as the fixer.

"It's one of the many hard lessons that I've learned on this journey. I can't control everything. And maybe while I was doing all that fixing, perhaps I should have encouraged others more to lean on God and wait for Him to do the work." Williams was diagnosed with Her2 positive breast cancer earlier this year and decided to share her journey with the world via social media.

"I had no intentions of telling anyone besides my closest family members and friends. But one day, I was convicted."

Williams said she attended a worship service and a minister-- with whom she had not spoken to about her illness-- told her that she knew what was happening in her life but there were miracles happening all around her as well. "At that moment I knew I had to share my journey and the goodness of God," Williams says.

On June 24, 2024 Williams, who works as a supervisor and Director of Marketing at Crane Title in Mobile wrote on her Facebook page...

Often you all see me with champagne asking you to book your closings with me. Often you see me with a ton of people at a party that I've planned for Crane Title. Often times you see me with my children at their games, graduations, or just around. What do you see? A big smile from me. Well today I will share with you a moment when the smile paused.

She went on to explain that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer and that she must be a testament to God's grace, mercy, and faithfulness in her life. She admitted that she expected her journey to be filled with tears, prayers, laughter, and ultimately victory.

Williams has been and sharing her journey ever since, via Facebook and TikTok. From highs and lows of feeling ill after treatments to the ordeal of losing her beautiful head of hair, Williams says it is important to share her journey because tomorrow it will be someone else's journey. She wants to encourage others to fight. "Cancer is sneaky," Williams said. "People think they are doing all the right things, checking themselves regularly as they should, and still end up with cancer."

Williams said she never felt a lump in her breast, but had been told repeated by doctors that she has very dense breasts, a diagnosis often given to black women. "This is why it's so important to have your mammogram. And I want to encourage women, especially women of color to be relentless about it."

[Statistics show, that while there has been an overall 42 percent decline in breast cancer deaths over the last three decades—there is a persistent mortality gap between Black women and white women. According to the

—continued on Page 06... See **FIGTHER**



COOKING WITH MRS. V.

Vernetta Henson

FIFTH GENERATION DIRECT DESCENDANT THE CLOTILDA

HAPPY NEW YEAR & BLESSED DAYS AHEAD!

Thank you all for your readership and we hope we are meeting your expectations. This being fruitcake season, I have a new version of Grandma's fruitcake. This cake is good throughout the year and easy to make, got it from "A World of Baking, circa 1968.

Cream Cheese Fruitcake

- 1 lb **Cream Cheese** (room temperature)
- 1 lb **Butter** (room temperature)
- 3 cups **Sugar**
- 7 large **Eggs** (room temperature)
- 4-1/2 cups sifted **Flour**
- 1 tbsp **Baking Powder**
- 1/2 cup **Apple Juice**
- 1 cup **Candied Pineapple**, crushed
- 1cup **candied Cherries**, halved (red and green)
- 1 cup **Chopped Pecans**
- 1/2 cup **Blanched Slivered Almonds**

Grease three (3) loaf pans. Line pans with wax paper and grease the paper.

Sift FLOUR and BAKING POWDER together; set aside. In a separate bowl, beat CREAM CHEESE and BUTTER until well blended. Add SUGAR and beat until light and fluffy. Add EGGS one at a time until blended. Fold in 3-1/2 cups of FLOUR mixture with the APPLE JUICE.

Thoroughly coat the CANDIED FRUIT and NUTS with the remaining FLOUR mixture and fold into batter.

Fill the three (3) pans 3/4 full with batter and bake 325F for one (1) hour and 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cakes cool in pans on cooling rack((s) for 10 to 15 minutes before removing from pan.

Remove wax paper before wrapping and storing.
USE CAKES WITHIN 10 DAYS OF STORING.

Want to cook good food to enjoy while fellowshiping with family and friends? Well, I have loads of cookbooks, so start requesting recipes so I can share them with you!

BON APPETIT!

FIGHTER... continued from Page 05

American Cancer Society, Black women have a 38 percent higher death rate from breast cancer than any other race. Statistically Black women are more likely to have diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, and are less likely to breastfeed after childbirth—all of which are risk factors for breast cancer. However, many aren't aware that biology also plays a role. Black women are disproportionately affected by more aggressive subtypes of cancer, such as triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) and inflammatory breast cancer. At the time of this interview, Williams was completing phase one of her chemo treatments. She says that wants women to know that the journey is not easy.]

"Chemotherapy is hard and tough. Most days I've felt like I can't do it anymore. But with the amazing support system I have, I know I have to keep fighting."

Williams is the mother of three children, twin boys and a daughter. She says that their devotion and support, along with that of a devoted friend, Andrew Crane, is what makes her stronger.

"They constantly tell me I'm beautiful, even when I feel I'm not. And before each chemo, myself, Andy and my kids go out to dinner to celebrate one step closer to finishing chemo." While in the fight of her life, Williams is still encouraging others daily. During the month of October, her social media posts included a gorgeous photo shoot encouraging women to "fight like a girl" and "don't let your boobs kill you."

"I just want women to know that early detection can save your life!!! Cancer can rob you of so much, but it doesn't have to be your life!"

After she finished chemo, Williams says she will have a double mastectomy and reconstruction with her own body tissue.

"As I fight and WIN it is my prayer you all are healthy and take care of yourselves too."

Williams support system has created pink wristbands that say "Fight With Dee". She says that although, they read "Fight With Dee" let them be a reminder to you that we all have battles to fight and together we can conquer anything. "There is a scripture in the wristband, Mark 11:24- Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."♣

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

—DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR—



Commissioners Honored by NAMI-Alabama

Commissioners Connie Hudson and Merceria Ludgood were recently recognized as Friends of the Court by the National Alliance on Mental Illness Alabama Chapter. Dr. Cindy Gipson, AltaPointe's Associate Director of Crisis Services, delivered their awards at the Oct. 28 Mobile County Commission meeting.

The NAMI Alabama Awards acknowledge the dedication of individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the organization's mission: to advocate, educate, and support people and families affected by mental illness so they can build better lives. NAMI-Alabama's Friend of the Court Award recognizes individuals associated with efforts in the justice-involved arena who have shown exceptional advocacy and support to those going through the court process and have worked to support better treatment and solutions for people with mental illness.

Gipson explained they were nominated together as a "Dynamic Duo who are true mental health champions."

- **District 1 Commissioner Merceria Ludgood** was nominated for her local efforts to champion the Stepping Up Initiative and her decades of effort to prevent unnecessary incarceration and lessen recidivism through mental health programs. According to Gipson, "her unwavering commitment to supporting individuals facing mental health crises, has made a profound impact on the community."
- **District 2 Commissioner Connie Hudson** was nominated for her "passion for improving access to treatment for individuals living with mental illness, especially those who are justice-involved," said Gipson, and for her support of mental health initiatives through her many years of elected office. Gipson touted her leadership in securing mental health clinicians at Community Corrections and in the 2023 launch of the new Mental Health Court.

Mobile County's Mental Health Court, supported by the Mobile County Commission through American Rescue Plan Act funding, focuses on treatment through collaboration with mental health providers and shortens the time that individuals with mental illness spend in jail through program compliance monitoring.

Gipson also touted their support of Sequential Intercept Mapping to identify service gaps, co-response initiatives between law enforcement and clinicians, and Crisis Intervention Team training, which she said have led to better outcomes for individuals in crisis. She concluded her award presentation by sharing that the NAMI-Alabama's Awards Committee described these two Commissioners as the most impressive nominees in the state.♣

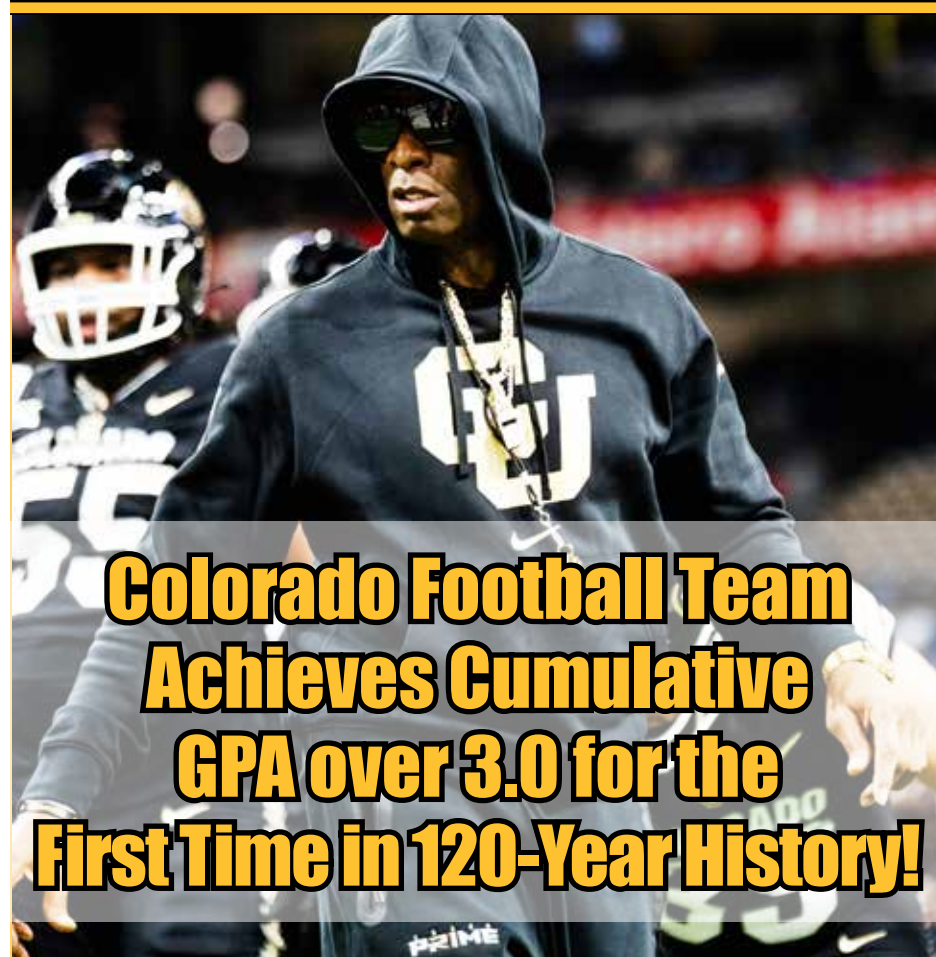


Colman Domingo
can not wait
to embody
Nat King Cole
in the upcoming
biopic about
the **Legendary**
Jazz Singer's Life



DID YOU KNOW...

- **Lelia Foley** was the **first Black woman elected Mayor** of a U.S. city in 1973.
- **GEORGE WASHINGTON JOHNSON** was the **First BLACK Recording Artist** in the U.S.
- **The Proud Family** was Disney Channel's first original animated series **about the life of a young Black Girl**, 14-year-old Penny Proud
- **Joseph R. Winters** patents **first Fire Escape Ladder** in 1878.



Colorado Football Team
Achieves Cumulative
GPA over 3.0 for the
First Time in 120-Year History!



Arthur L. Mack
FREELANCE WRITER
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Get to Know...



INCREASING AWARENESS... The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America

It was a passion for people that caused Gulf Coast native Gerald Alfred to come back to Mobile and take over as executive director of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA)— Mobile Chapter. “No matter about what I’ve done in my career, it all goes back to giving,” he said.

The SCDAA-Mobile Chapter, which serves Mobile, Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Covington, Escambia, Monroe, and Washington counties, certifies community health partners and social workers, not just in Mobile, but throughout the United States. “We have people from all over the United States come to Mobile once a year for certification and training that we’re sponsoring with the University of South Alabama, because we have a close relationship with the school,” said Alfred, who has been executive director since September. “Who would’ve thought that? People outside the city know, but what about people here in Mobile?”

To that end, Alfred is embarking on a campaign to make people more aware about the organization. The program, entitled ‘Be Heard,’ which stands for Bridging Education, Hope and Empowerment, Advocacy Research, and Dedication. “You got people out there who can really benefit from it, and that’s through education and outreach,” he said. “Within that campaign, I’ve got people who have a skill set that’s second to none, and you’re going to hear ‘Be Heard’ all over this city. You’re going to see it on vehicle wrap, billboards, Tik Tok videos. It’s going to cover so much of everything. There are those who know we deal with sickle cell, but we also help with utility assistance, groceries, transportation, clothes, school uniforms, GED prep, after school tutorial and enrichment programs, as well as applications for going to college. If I can learn about all this in three months, certainly we can spread the word. We’re trying to make an impact and educate this area and remove some of these barriers.”

Alfred has the background necessary to bring more awareness about SCDAA-Mobile Chapter — after all, he’s a native of Prichard and a Blount High graduate. From there, he attended Jackson State University, where he majored in voice. Then, he decided he wanted to make a change. “I decided that I didn’t want to major in music,” he said. “So, I decided to go to Miles College and graduated from there. Actually, this music space that was there paid for my education; I was able to sing in the choir and be a student director without majoring in music.” As for his professional career, Alfred began with the City of Prichard, where he worked under the Jesse Norwood administration as the Director of Community Development and Director of Economic Development. “I had the opportunity to work on a lot of great

projects, and learned to do a lot of grant writing,” he said. “I did a lot of great things that I’m proud of, including the development of Renaissance Park and working closely with the Weed and Seed Initiative. I worked with all of those different entities, and eventually became the director of Weed and Seed.”

Alfred continued to work in the non-profit space, working closely with the Justice Department, city officials, county officials, and state and federal officials, and managed to do a lot of great things in the city. “Pollard Park was one of our major things,” he said. “At one time, that park was dormant. We worked with the County Commission and revitalized it. From there, the space went into the public sector. I started doing consultant work for the federal government, and finally, I got hired on at the WAVE Transit System.” He was in senior management with WAVE for 18 years, and was responsible for the day-to-day operations at the intermodal facility in downtown Mobile at the GM&O building. From there, he started working deeper in operations and administration. “I had the chance to learn all the planning and workings of the operations system,” he said. “It put me into a position to not only be there, but to do something I never thought I would be doing. I was benefitted with the opportunity to go to Birmingham, where I was the Chief Operations Officer for the city’s transit authority. “Keep in mind, my mom never had a car; the way we got around when I was a kid was on the bus. We went to church, we went to the grocery store, everywhere. Fast forward, and who would have thought I would be the head person of the largest transit system in the state of Alabama?”

One project Alfred worked on while with the Birmingham Transit Authority was the Birmingham Express, a rapid transit system that was the first in the state of Alabama. As part of the transit authority, he wore many hats while managing numerous departments. “I had a very dynamic team to help roll that system out,” he said. “This was a fleet that consisted of 15 totally-electric buses that will get you from one side of Birmingham to another. And while I was there, I was responsible for operations, maintenance, compliance, planning, safety, facilities, and marketing.”

When the SCDAA-Mobile Chapter’s executive director position came open, Alfred jumped at the chance. “I saw the opportunity,” he said. “I realized that I wanted to stay here in Mobile. I had opportunities to leave the city again, but Mobile is home... Prichard is home. There’s so much more I can do here; I see kids every day, I see people every day that I know. I truly believe in what Sickle Cell is doing, and when I did research, one thing that really caught my attention was if people knew what was Sickle

—continued on Page 09... See **SICKLE CELL**



Gerald Alfred



Truth , Facts & Justice

Sabrina Mass

RETIRED NURSE • CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

THE BROKEN CITY and URBAN DECLINE IN AMERICA

I would like to address the concerns and phenomenon of urban decline in AMERICAN cities, focusing on the socio-economic, political, and environmental factors that we are truly facing that contribute to the deterioration in urban areas. This paper aims to understand the complexities of urban decay and implications for residents and policymakers. My analysis highlights the need for comprehensive strategies to revitalize broken cities such as we see here in Mobile Alabama and many cities across the United States and restore them as vibrant centers of community and economic activity. Urban areas in the United States have long been seen as engines of economic growth and cultural innovation. However, many cities have experienced significant decline over the past few decades, leading to a phenomenon often referred to as “broken cities,” and sad to say Mobile Alabama is factually a broken city, consumed with poverty, crime, deteriorating infrastructure, with trust in the elected officials that the people elected to lead and trust with their votes. A broken city can be characterized by all the indicators mentioned. The decline of urban areas has profound implications for residents, including increased poverty, reduced quality of life, and social isolation. For policymakers, addressing urban decline requires a multi-faceted approach that should include examples such as investments in infrastructure and public services, economic development initiatives that create jobs for the impoverished and to support local small business, not just their friends that are well established in the so called AMERICAN DREAM. What about the poor, what about the down trodden that just need a helping hand and not a hand out?

Community engagement to those that need it the most. Implementing environmentally sustainable practices can improve living conditions and attract investments. A commitment to equity and sustainability is possible to revitalize these urban areas and restore them as thriving centers of community and opportunity. The future of American cities depends on our ability to address the root causes of urban decline and work collaboratively towards a more inclusive and prosperous landscape. But, the problem is when you have the same old tired talk and the people are complacent to no changing of the guards in their elected officials...you get what you VOTE for or rather what you did not take time to go VOTE for. SO PICK YOUR POISON, get up get out and VOTE or JUST SHHHH!!!♣

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Expressions: Right or Wrong!

Lisa Johnson

There's power in supporting one another. You don't have to experience what a person is going through to help them. Showing up and offering a helping hand or shoulder to lean on can lift a person's spirit. I had an opportunity to attend an event where people from different walks of life came together to support those affected by breast cancer. A panel of professionals and a breast cancer survivor shared their wealth of knowledge. There is so much information out there to help guide those with breast cancer. This information is needed so those affected, and their families can make well-informed decisions to receive the best treatment plan. This was my first time attending this event, and everyone's story blew me away. Every woman who walked the runway was celebrated with applause and words of support. They strutted confidently with styles of clothes sponsored by local retailers that left them radiantly glowing. I was truly touched from the heart and wanted to cry because of their resilience. There was a mother and daughter battling cancer together. However, the daughter could not make it, but her mom vowed to be there next year to escort her down the runway. What a touching moment this proved to be as they're each other's cheerleader.

There is power in words, and the next time you see someone needing support, be sure to choose your words carefully. Words that exhibit hope, love, and support can be life-changing. When a person knows they have a support system, it makes a huge difference in their outlook on life. Remember empathy is putting yourself in the other person's shoes. As you contemplate yourself in their situation, focus on what they need and what you would want someone to do for you. Sometimes we think the help we offer must be elaborate. Oftentimes, they might simply need a ride to their treatment, someone to hold their hand, someone to pray with them, someone to cry with, someone to try on wigs with, someone to listen, and someone to be there as they ring the bell. Whatever they need, just be there! ~ Proverbs 16:24; 17:22; 18:14; & Proverbs 25:11♣

SICKLE CELL... continued from Page 08

Cell doing. People knew what was Franklin Memorial Clinic was doing; what about Sickle Cell? That's when Alfred began to dig deeper and draw on past experiences to learn about sickle cell anemia. "I remember when I was in middle school I was told that I had sickle cell trait," he said. "One thing that made me realize was that I can't cry no more because I thought I had sickle cell (disease). The education piece wasn't there for me, so why can't we go out and educate?"

The 'Be Heard' campaign, said Alfred, will be a big start in educating the public and initiate programs never done before. "It's going to be a new way of doing things," he said. "We're going to concentrate on being heard. "We're going to really concentrate on digging deep and being as transparent as we can to make a difference in all nine counties. One of the programs we'll be rolling out are creating a demand-response transportation program, based on the dial-a-ride, where you're able to actually call in and within 24 hours schedule us to pick you up, take you to where you need to go, regardless of where it is.

"Can we do it? Yes, we can, because we're doing so many things right now, but we've got to get the word out. It's going to be the board; it's going to be all of us. I want my board involved, because we have a lot of resources with those guys. I want them being drum majors for us, and they're doing that right now."♣

Literary Corner presents...

12 Books to Read in the New Year... 2025

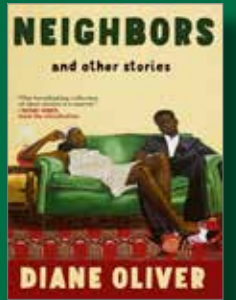
Book Selection compliments of Heart & Soul Motivational/Inspirational Book Club



**SYSTEMS THAT SHAPE
BLACK AMERICA**
Tracee N. Bruce



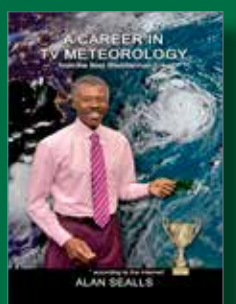
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and other stories**
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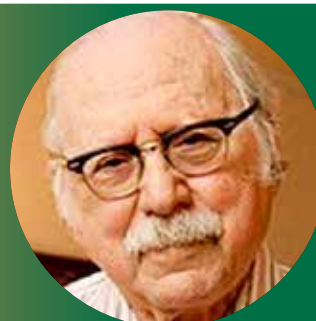
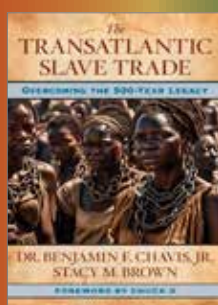
**NINA MAE MCKINNEY
The Black Garbo**
Stephen Bourne



**A CAREER IN
TV METEOROLOGY**
Alan Sealls



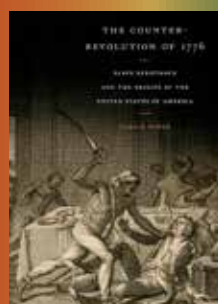
**THE TRANSATLANTIC
SLAVE TRADE:
OVERCOMING
THE 500-YEAR LEGACY**
Stacy M. Brown



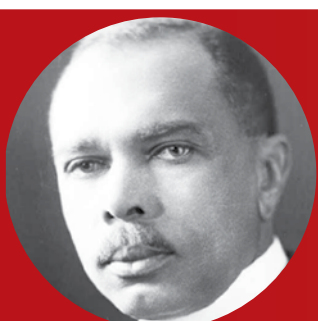
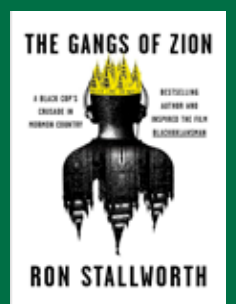
THE TWELFTH PLANET
Zechariah Sitchin



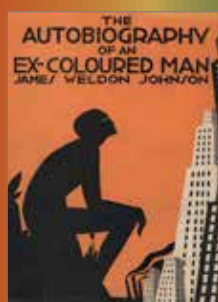
**THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION
OF 1776**
Gerald Horne



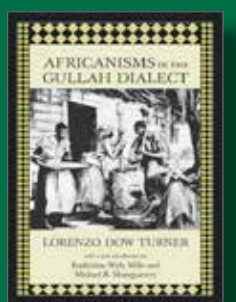
THE GANGS OF ZION
Ron Stallworth



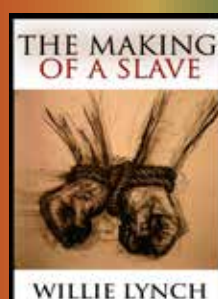
**THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
AN EX-COLORED MAN**
James Weldon Johnson



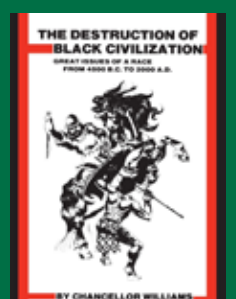
**AFRICANISMS IN
THE GULLAH DIALECT**
Lorenzo Dow Turner



THE MAKING OF A SLAVE
Willie Lynch



**THE DESTRUCTION OF
BLACK CIVILIZATION**
Chancellor Williams





Taking Mobile To The Next Level

Memphis Vaughan Jr.

NATIVE MOBILIAN; EDITOR OF LITERARY

WEBSITE... TimBookTu.com

SEND FEEDBACK TO: mempv57@gmail.com

The Battle's Not Over

Now the national election is over, and the dust is beginning to settle on what lies ahead, I want to encourage voters to not despair if your candidate didn't win. There are still many battles to fight to ensure that we get adequate representation from our elected officials. The official holder has a duty to represent all constituents no matter their political affiliation.

THINGS YOU CAN DO:

• Reflect on Your Candidate's Loss

Take a moment to reflect on why your candidate didn't win and see if they were focused on community needs and concerns. Engage with potential future candidates to ensure that they are addressing your needs. Again, this calls for you to be proactive and make your voice heard.

• Stay Informed and Educated

Don't wait to be spoon fed because if you do that, you will only receive what they want you to hear. Use multiple and diverse sources of information to get a well-rounded understanding of the issues. It may be challenging, especially since a few entities control most of the media, but it is critical to stay informed.

• Get Involved with Local Advocacy Groups

Connect with local and state level advocacy groups and find out what they are doing to promote your interests. Attend city council, county commission, and school board meetings. Pay attention to zoning issues, public notices, and future projects. These decisions use your tax dollars, so you should have a say in how those dollars are spent.

• Encourage Others to Vote

Low voter turnout is one of the biggest failures. We must get others energized especially those who share your values and community concerns. When too many people don't vote, opportunities are missed. There is strength in numbers.

• Consider Running for Office or Actively Supporting Future Candidates

A lot can be accomplished at the local and state level. Running for political office yourself or supporting future candidates can be an effective way to make an impact.

These are just a few things to help soften the blow and prepare you for the future.

Lastly, I want to congratulate Shomari Figures on his victory as the future U.S. Representative for Alabama's 2nd Congressional District. It is a privilege to know him personally and I'm optimistic that he will serve our district well in Congress.♣

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Moments in Time

Paulette Horton

Business on Davis Avenue aka "The Avenue"

Davis Avenue was once Booming with Businesses!
Everything you needed could be found within
walking distance on this street.

As I drive down Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue
(formerly Davis Avenue) today, there is nothing
that could trigger my memory from days gone by.
It would be hard to convince a current
generation that The Avenue was once
a prosperous business district.

Is it possible that the current vacant lots on
The Avenue can be transformed once again into
a prosperous business district?♣



Pictured: FINLEY'S DRUG STORE... a family owned/operated drug store chain
among the many thriving businesses on Davis Avenue of the past.

-Image courtesy of [Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail](#)



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Hats Off

Happy Birthday



Frank McBee

Celebrating **103** Blessed Years!

Congratulations!

Joy Washington

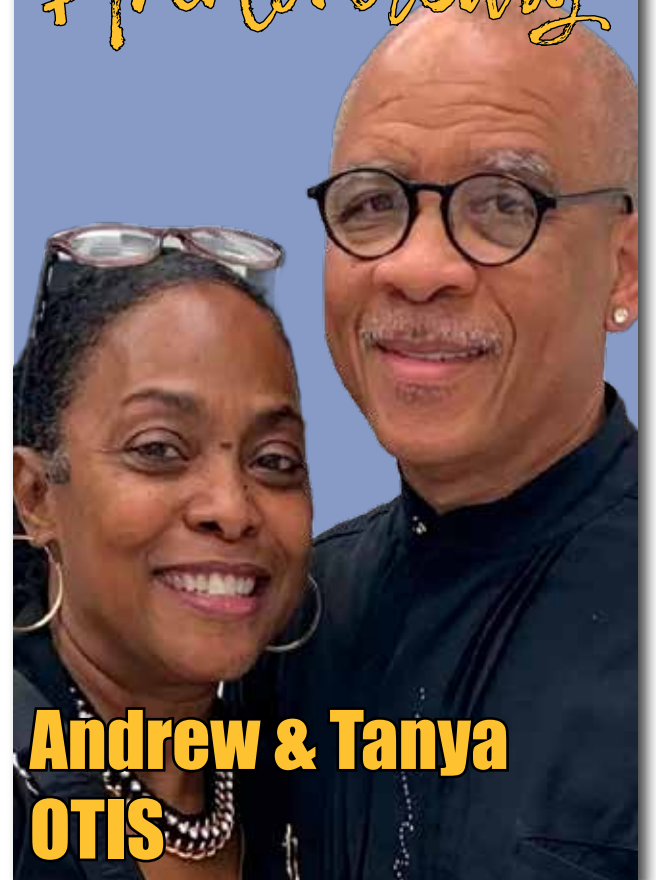


30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

University of South Alabama

HAPPY 39^H WEDDING

Anniversary



**Andrew & Tanya
OTIS**

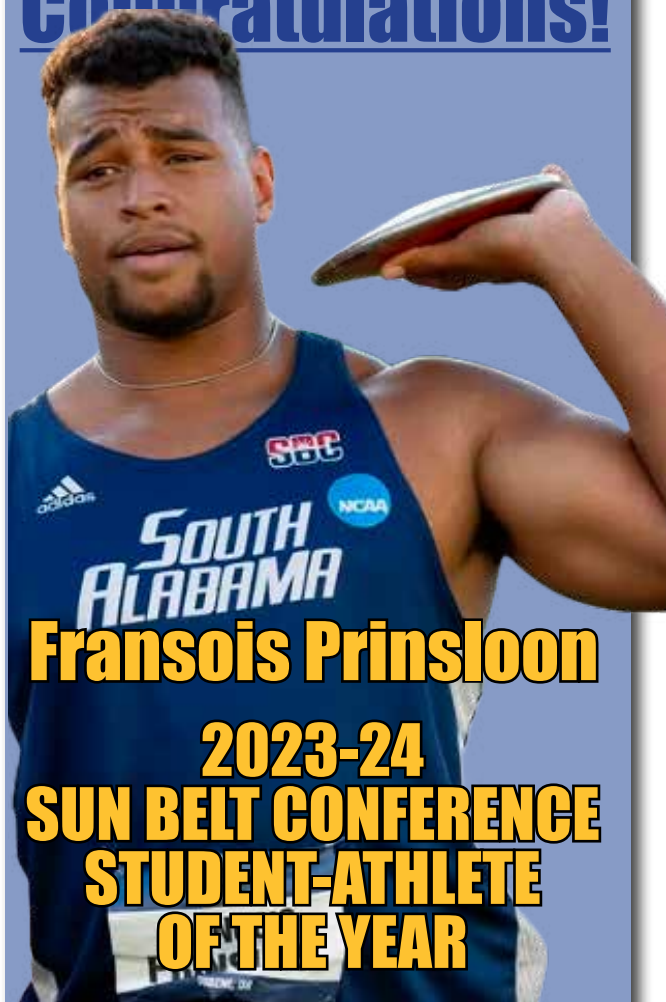
Happy Birthday

Pastor Novel Glover



Celebrating **85** Blessed Years!

Congratulations!

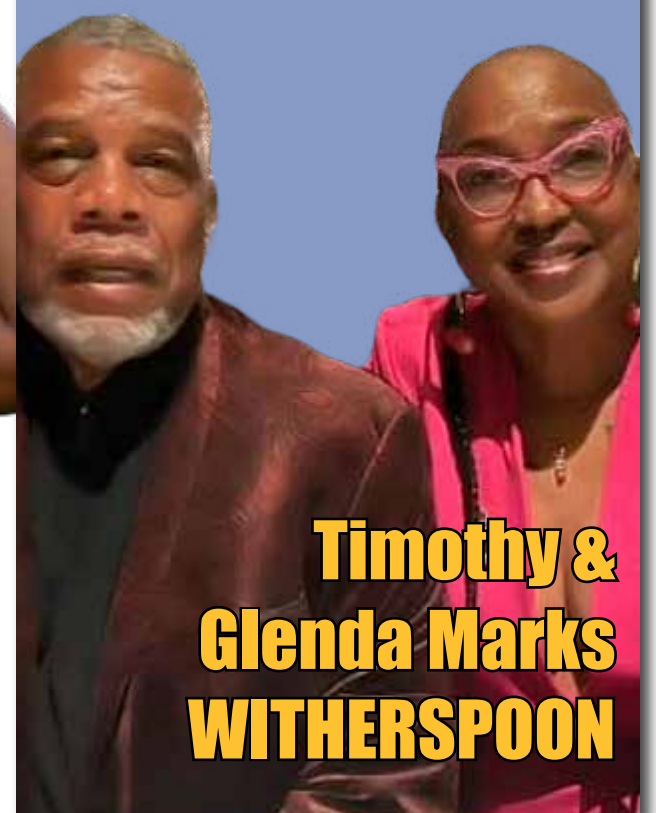


Fransois Prinsloot

**2023-24
SUN BELT CONFERENCE
STUDENT-ATHLETE
OF THE YEAR**

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING

Anniversary



**Timothy &
Glenda Marks
WITHERSPOON**

Hats Off

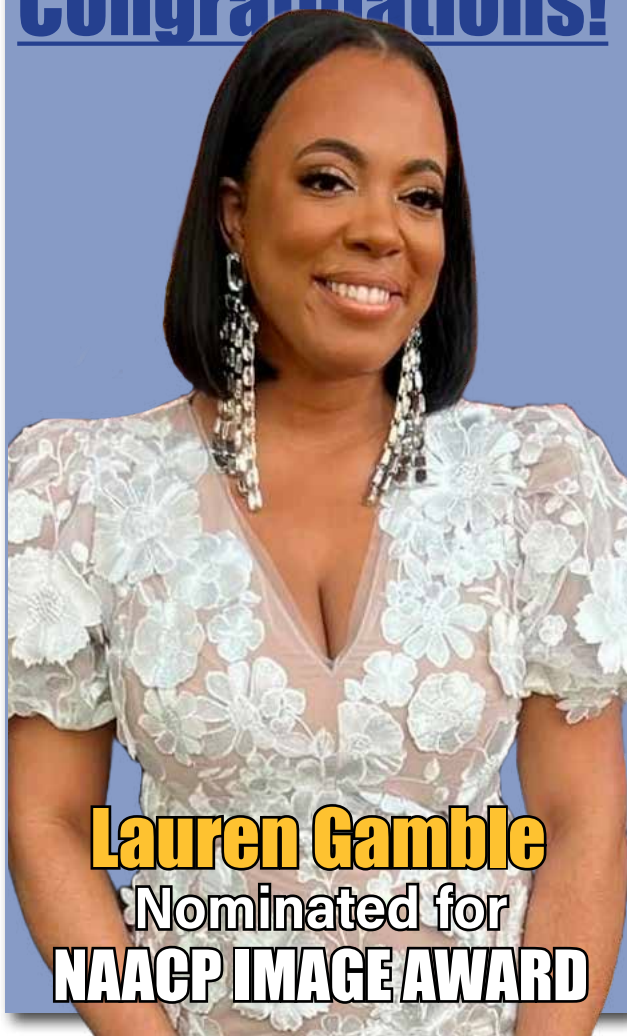
Happy Birthday



Venita Young

Celebrating **100** Blessed Years!

Congratulations!



Lauren Gamble

Nominated for
NAACP IMAGE AWARD

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING

Anniversary



Tim & Shelia HALE

Happy Birthday



James Richardson

Celebrating **80** Blessed Years!

Happy Birthday



Claudette Colvin

Celebrating **85** Blessed Years!

Happy Birthday



Dr. Ruby Eldridge

Celebrating **81** Blessed Years!



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Arthur L. Mack

FREELANCE WRITER

steppinoutnews@aol.com

The Need for Reliable Information

Now that the elections are over, there are questions regarding how news will be given to the public.

Gone (or almost gone) are the days when daily newspapers told us about the events of the day, and weeklies are the only hope when it comes to providing community news. Old reliable daily standards such as the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, and the New York Times are almost always under attack by conservative pundits, and liberal news outlets such as MSNBC are taking a beating.

Let's not forget about CNN, which as of late has taken a beating of its own. Thanks to Donald Trump's attack of conventional media and calling it 'fake news,' there has been an attack on regular journalism as never before.

Keep in mind, though, conservatives have their own means of providing 'journalism' to those who are willing to read and listen. Fox News Channel immediately comes to mind — in fact, it played a huge role in the last presidential election. Add to that Elon Musk and his handling of X (formerly twitter) and how he wants to spin the social media site his way, and you can see what I'm talking about.

Which brings me to what I want to talk about in this column...

In my six decades as a writer, I've just about seen it all, from catastrophic events to events that provided plenty of inspiration. This is what writers are supposed to do, talk about the events of the day, and provide you, the reader, with the pertinent information needed so you can be properly informed.

But with all of the craziness going on, it's becoming obvious that reliable news sources are sorely needed in order to counteract the crazy stuff that's on social media nowadays. That's why I'm going to do my part to make sure the readers get the proper information that's needed.

That's the purpose of papers such as Steppin' Out. We want to keep you informed, and that's what we're going to do. In an age where diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is being eliminated or under attack and Black History is being eliminated from school curriculums, we want to let you know about the accomplishments we as a people have had over the years.

Although we are a monthly, we do the very best we can to bring you information about what is going on in the community. I don't know about you, but I have a funny feeling that we and other like-minded news sources are the only thing that's preventing a news desert in the Black community. Though there are many who say there are still news outlets providing information to the public, there isn't enough news relating to Black communities being put out there in print.

Sure, there's social media, such as Facebook and Instagram, but what I think is needed is a more concerted effort support those papers that are trying to get the word out about positive things going on in our communities. If that happens, papers such as Steppin' Out could print more often, and in the long run, print even more positive events.

Will we be up to the challenge?♣️



Mobile County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AREA SCHOOLS AWARDED by State of Alabama

The Alabama State Schools Superintendent announced the Top Performing and Most Improved Schools.

These are schools are awarded for excellence or significant improvement in annual rankings.

All of the selected schools will be invited to Montgomery in February to receive a portion of a \$250,000 award and take photos with state board members and legislators.

The area schools and principals are as follows...

IN THE TOP 25 PERFORMING SCHOOLS...

Eichold-Mertz School of Math and Science
Principal Azure Wells



Old Shell Road Magnet School
Principal Linda Byrd



W.H. Council Traditional School
Principal Allison Streeter



IN THE TOP 25 IMPROVED SCHOOLS...

Mobile County Training School
Principal James Patterson





Creole History Highlights

Tracy Neely

PRESIDENT: MOBILE CREOLE CULTURAL
AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

What's in a Name

Our names are so much more than just a few letters spoken in a particular order or written on a page. They hold history. Andry, Brue, Baptiste, Chastang, Collins, Durette, Trenier, Laurendine, Juzang, Petite, Heninburg, Baudin, Nicholas. These are just a few of the more recognized names which have their early origins on this continent connected to Mobile. Some came from France, some from Spain, and some from Italy, by way of Canada, but they all converged upon the Gulf Coast, leaving their mark on Mobile. All contributed to our Creole family. All are connected. Once Spain finally turned over the keys of the Port City to the American government in 1819 and Alabama became a state, the desire to anglicize through development increased. Mobile's new identity would be one stitched to the evolution of Confederate fabric. Those who had been white identified Creoles during French and Spanish occupations would drop their Creole identity to merge with the new Anglo establishment. Another tiny but effective piece of this evolution was the non-English surname. When record keeping began under the American flag in Alabama, record keepers did not check for spelling. Census takers just had to be able to read and write, and spelling was not a requirement of the job. As a result, many names in many documents were spelled in a manner that was comfortable to the writer with no consideration for whom the name belonged. One of the best examples of this occurrence is the surname, Yrigoyen.

Miguel Yrigoyen (sometimes spelled Yrrigoyen) was the keeper of the Spanish Royal Hospital while Mobile was occupied by Spain from about 1803 until December 1819. He fathered six known children with Constance Hugon, a Free Woman of Color: Marie, Francis, Candelaria, Matilda, Ygnacia, and Julian. Ygnacia and Julian died extremely young, but the other four children grew to adulthood and had families. Francis married Emily Daniel (the widow of Baptiste Serra) and later Zoe Dauphin. Candelaria partnered with Ulysses Barnard, and Matilda married John Martin and later, Felix Compagno. Marie, the oldest daughter of Miguel and Constance, married Pierre Laurendine. Early on, her maiden name is transformed. In her marriage record, Henry Lewis, the court clerk, anglicized her entire name from Marie Yrigoyen to Mary Gregory. And by this time, Pierre's ancestral Italian name, Lorandini, had long been altered to Laurendine. Had either Marie or Pierre been able to write, they would have signed their names much differently than the clerk did. Similarly, Chastang and Chestang are the same family. Despite what some might say, it is not a matter of race that determines which vowel you get. It was a matter of who was doing the writing and what that person knew about the spelling of the name and were they just spelling what they heard pronounced. Even the formerly enslaved Major Pierre Chastang's name was written with an A and not an E in his obituary. Neither spelling is better than the other. It is simply happenstance.

This change in spelling is often referred to as "bastardization" and it is now understood to be a term intended to "other" people who did not carry the original spelling of a surname. But that change in spelling is not indicative of baseness in any way. It is, however, evolutionary. It is part of the human journey. It is part of the writing of one's personal history and the future history of one's own descendants. We must remember that our name, first and last, is important. It carries us through all we do. Some names inspire and some make people cringe. But it is our unique first impression upon this world. Our first name sends us forward and our last name tells us where we come from. We only have to look, because with every breath we are writing our own history.♣

Bishop State/Alabama A&M Transfer Scholarships

A partnership between Bishop State Community College and Alabama A&M University will provide new full-tuition scholarship opportunities for Bishop State graduates planning to transfer. Through the memorandum of understanding, the institutions aim to streamline the pathway for students to continue their education at the four-year university, while offering financial support to those who qualify. The MOU outlines that Alabama A&M will dedicate 10 Transfer Merit Scholarships for Bishop State graduates who meet the minimum criteria, which include a 3.25 GPA or higher and at least 60 credit hours. Recipients must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.1 and complete a minimum of 30 credit hours per academic year in order to retain the scholarship for up to four semesters.

These scholarships are designed to ease the financial burden for students pursuing bachelor's degrees at AAMU and reflect the institutions' shared commitment to increasing access to higher education for all students, particularly those from underserved communities.

Also as part of the MOU, Bishop State graduates with a 3.33 GPA or higher will be given priority consideration for the AAMU Honor's Program, and a 15% tuition discount will be extended to full-time faculty and staff employed by Bishop State who are pursuing an online Ph.D. program at AAMU. In addition to these benefits, the MOU emphasizes academic collaboration and ongoing support for transfer students, ensuring a smooth transition from Bishop State to Alabama A&M University.

Bishop State

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Andreda Randelson

PORTRAITS in BLACK

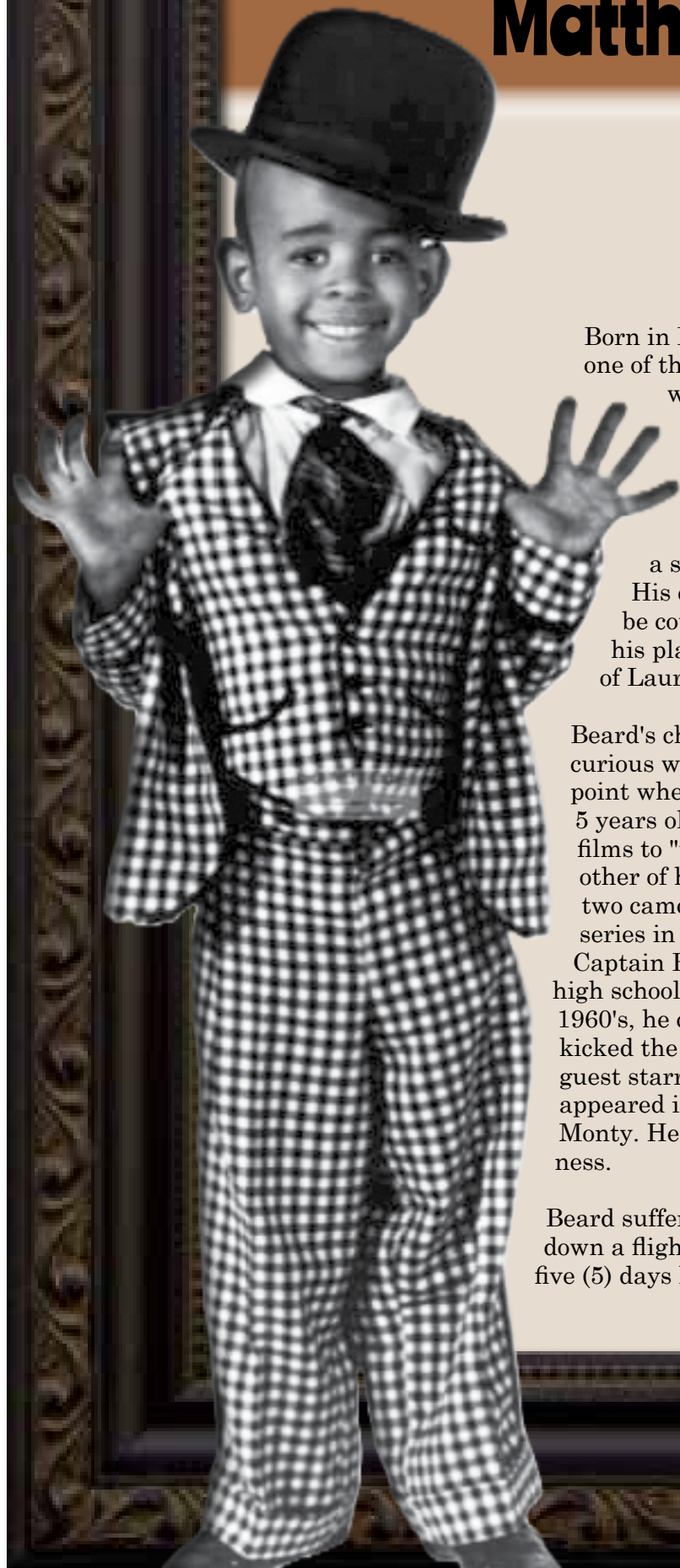
Matthew Beard Jr.



Born in Los Angeles on New Year's Day in 1925, Matthew Beard Jr. was one of thirteen children of Matthew and Johnnie Mae Beard. His father was the founding pastor of Beloved Church of God in Christ in that city. He became famous for playing the role of Stymie in the Our Gang Comedy Series (1930-1935) and began using that name throughout his acting career. He signed a five-year contract to play that part and was cast as a "slick-tongued con-artist" who was self-assured, nonchalant, and ready with a sly comment and clever ideas to solve the problems he faced. His character had a bald head and wore a derby hat and he could be counted on to offer sound common sense advice that helped resolve his playmates dilemmas. The hat was a gift from comedian Stan Laurel of Laurel and Hardy fame.

Beard's character was originally named Hercules but the young actor's curious wanderings around the studio so "stymied" the director to the point where he changed the character's name. He came to the series at 5 years old and one year later went through the transition from silent films to "talkies". His paycheck helped to support his family and four other of his siblings also appeared in the series. Even his mother made two cameo appearances in shows playing Stymie's Mom. He left the series in 1935 at the age of 10 and played minor roles in films including Captain Blood with Errol Flynn. He retired from acting when he entered high school. He fell into street life and became addicted to Heroin. In the 1960's, he checked himself into a drug rehabilitation clinic and successfully kicked the habit. He made a small comeback playing in feature films and guest starring in Sanford and Son, Emergency!, and The Jeffersons. He also appeared in episodes of Maude and had a recurring role on Good Times as Monty. He also began to lecture around the country on drug abuse awareness.

Beard suffered a Stroke in 1981, two (2) days after his 56th birthday. He fell down a flight of stairs and suffered head injuries. He died from Pneumonia five (5) days later in Los Angeles where he is buried.♣





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

Gratitude

Hello everyone! It's been a while since you have heard directly from me. But for good reason, trust! Usually, I present to you the different issues pertaining to hair and scalp, diet and lifestyle, and general FYI. However, this time, this article will read differently. I hope you all don't mind.

I want to thank Greg Cyprian and Steppin' Out Newspaper for allowing me the opportunity to present, educate, and inform so many people about hair. More specifically, natural hair. I want to thank you, the reader, for reading, requesting, talking about my articles, and saving or bookmarking my articles! The feedback has been great! I am very passionate about what I do and how I do it. I have met many challenges along the way, but I still try my best to deliver.

Locs of Soul is going through a mini "facelift" at present. That includes the information that I will be bringing to you monthly. I am a certified trichologist (a person who studies the biological study of hair, skin, and scalp disorders and hair loss). It's like being a dermatologist without medications and chemicals. Therefore, I will be implementing new techniques, add-on services, classes/workshops, articles, and more! Locs of Soul will be a more eco-friendly salon moving into the new year. I am excited and I hope you will be too! So, please do not think I have forgotten you. I am thankful, appreciative, and grateful to you all. Without you, there is no me... There is no Locs of Soul!♣

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



Disrespected and Duped!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

There are so many challenges facing us in 2025. Yet, as I sit here pondering my first message of 2025, what do I share. I pray the words represent what is in my heart. I have traveled the world and lived in Southern California, Brazil, Kenya and Tampa Bay. With these experiences I observed and learned a lot about human behavior. One observation is that there will always be bullies, intimidators and oppressors seeking to prey. Yet I have found, through many cultures and situations, it is the few who speak up with intelligence and fervor that create a momentum of change. I am not saying that there is an absence of doubt or fear. But something within them says, enough is enough, someone must stand up.

In past articles I have written about the quality of life in Alabama. So many of the rankings place Alabama near or at the bottom. It is not like people do not know what to do. But more likely they are swayed by influencers, lobbyists and greed to overlook innovations, legislation, processes and systems that will positively impact the people of Alabama. We as citizens, constituents, consumers, must speak up. Or you will not be respected. I have sat in executive sessions and a common mindset was this: Give them a 'feel good' public relations speech, keep repeating it and eventually the bad news will go away.

If you truly want more for the next generations. We must address the bullies, intimidators, greedy, power-brokers. Let them know we want innovations, solutions that improve the quality of life and an end to growing corruption within administrations.

It is time to speak up Mobile. Send letters, make phone calls, vote, recall, use your purchasing powers. I am tired of Alabama being at the bottom, on purpose, for the benefit of others. Let's start 2025 right. Let's focus on the Municipal elections now, not in August. Then let's have some conversations with some employers and state legislators.

As Always Let's Be Greater♣

Preservation Project Seeks Support

The Mobile County Training School Alumni Association is asking supporters, former Whippets and their family members, and current and former residents of Africatown and their families for assistance with a project to preserve the history of our dear "County."

Mobile County Training School is the oldest high school in the State of Alabama for African Americans. It has a very rich history and the group wants to preserve that history for future generations. They As have been going through the artifacts that they have collected, yearbooks, trophies, and other memorabilia, and have noticed that there are some gaps in their collection. As a result, the group is asking local residents if they have copies of photos of various activities and groups associated with the school that they would like to share.

If you can assist with this project, please contact the MCTSA Archives Committee at (251) 545-0593. They are seeking your permission to have their photographer scan the pictures for use in displays or exhibits. Any material gathered will be returned to the owner...it will NOT be kept.

Lets all help, if possible, to keep our ancestor's history alive for future generations.



Living In Bliss

Debra Braggs

VETERAN FASHION COLUMNIST
AND LIFESTYLE REPORTER

Souls of Time Returns

Japonica Brown wears many hats. She is an author, actor, counselor and director, to name a few. But Brown is much more than her bachelor's degree English and Creative Writing and her Masters of Fine Arts degree in Acting. Japonica Brown is a prophesy fulfilled. At the tender age of nine, Brown was told that God had a special job for her to do. And today, some, thirty years later, she says she understands the call.



Japonica Brown

AUTHOR

SOULS OF TIME

Japonica Brown is the writer of "Souls of Time," an original production commissioned by the Mobile County Board of Commissioners to educate Mobile residents about local black history. The highly successful musical drama debuted at the Mobile Civic Center Theater in 2024 to a sold-out audience and will return to the stage at the Mobile Saenger Theater on January 17, 2025. Produced and composed by Mobile's own Yvonne Matthews and sponsored by The Mobile County Commission, the musical drama explores the life of a 15-year old girl residing in Mobile, Alabama in 2020 who is transported to 1963, living in the body 15-year-old girl who lived in the same house 57 years earlier. Brown says you will "surely not leave the same" after seeing this production, "especially if you grew up in Mobile." She explains that the storyline shares so much history, good and bad, about life in this city, while paralleling current issues. "The story is multi-layered—it's about family, and the power of the church and activism and how those things were a part of everyday life," she says. "Three things were very necessary for me in this presentation -- that we reflect, remember and celebrate those times."

Brown, who is also a former school counselor, says it was extremely important to her that "Souls of Time" touched every age group. "I had to reach the kids. And I actually drew from my experiences as a school counselor in the writing of the story. I wanted to draw the kids in as well." Brown says she has witnessed the connection between therapy and the theater. "It can teach and heal." And standing on the state of the Mobile Civic Center Theater preparing for the presentation of "Souls of Time" Brown says she realized she was answering her life's call through her work.

"I was so emotional because I remember being in that theater, standing on that stage and saying I would love to present something here one day. It was humbling." Brown says she recognizes that she is not able to do what she does alone. She is definitely led by a higher power who gives her the stories and leads her through the process. Last year Brown added a new title to her resume: Owner. She now operates her own theater company, The Samuel Edward Theater Company, named after her late father.

"My dad always represented the possibility of a new future to me. He was raised in the projects and so was I, but he was always sharing stories about the world with me." Brown says she thrives from hearing the stories of her people and plans to share many, many more. You can learn more about The Samuel Edward Theater Company by visiting setcompany.org and iamjaponica.com.

Tickets for Souls of Time may be purchased at the Saenger Theater box office and at Ticketmaster.com.♣

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

The Return of SOULS OF TIME



A MATTHEWS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT PRODUCTION
A PLAY WRITTEN BY JAPONICA BROWN COMPOSED BY YVONNE MATTHEWS
MADE POSSIBLE BY MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSION, COMMISSIONER MERCERIA LUDGOOD

6 S. JOACHIM ST., **SAENGER** MOBILE, AL 36602

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BLACK LIVES MATTER

Tommy Green

Facebook Blogger
Former Editor for
the Mobile Beacon

Black People Don't Know History

Brothers and Sisters, I have written numerous articles on, "Black People Don't Know History." We are facing the dilemma of losing the rights that we gained in the 1960s because we haven't studied the past. An example, if you decide to travel, you need a paper map, Map-Quest, or General Positioning System (GPS) to reach the destination. You study history to understand the present, then you can prepare for the future. Without knowing the past, there is a chance that you may participate in your demise. Whose interest is it in for Black people to be stuck on stupid, it is in the interest of white people. Black people don't know history, so when a destructive action confronts them, there is chance that they may support that action.

The Pew Research Center reported in 2017 that the percentage of Black people voting declined by 7%. from 2012 to 2016 in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin and those are the states that determined that Donald Trump became president in 2016. We need to do the following actions to ensure that progress are continually being made by Black people: (1) First, we need to connect with Africa, the cradle of civilization because Black people are affected by Euro-centric thoughts; (2) Second, churches have to be one of the centers of our beings, but the majority of them must reject the slave masters agenda of Christianity, because it leans toward keeping the oppressors at the center of the agenda; (3) Third, the Black churches need to teach a liberation theology, which begin the process of Black people loving themselves; (4) We should develop an agenda for the Black community, which builds Black institutions; and (5) It is childish for the descendants of enslaved Africans to believe that the descendants of the slave masters will assist them in their freedom aspirations.

In a computer there is a default which is activated each time the computer is used unless the operator's change the default. If Black people knew their history, they would operate similar to a default in a computer. Their sensitivity would become very active when they are confronted with racism. If you knew Black history, you would become very conscious when you decide to purchase a home because there is a history of Black people's homes being devalued because of redlining. Therefore, this is a given for our lives, so default should be a defense for us. On July 28, 2024, Billy Binion Yahoo News, "Trump Wants Police To Be Above the Law. In May, 2024, Donald Trump traveled to Wisconsin, a battleground state crucial to his 2016 win and 2020 loss. The stakes are high. He made a few big promises to match. "We're going to give our police their power back," he told rally goers in Waukesha, "and we are going to give them immunity from prosecution."

Black people, Republicans have passed laws since the 2020 presidential election, which affects voting rights for Black people. Also, Trump was supporting electrocuting the 'Central Park Five' after they were exonerated in 1989. The members were exonerated because the actual perpetrator confessed, and DNA proved it. In addition, Democrats should vote a straight Democratic ticket from the top to lower level in this election.♣



Joe Cain Celebrates CHIEF SLACABAMORINICO VI

**JOE CAIN MARCHING SOCIETY GALA
JANUARY 18 @3:00PM**

The Merry Widow
51 S. Conception Street

40 year celebration
Bennett Wayne Dean as Chief Slacabamorinico VI

CASH BAR and HORS D'OEUVRES

music will feature
The Excelsior Band and Mobile Second Line Society
Both bands march with the organization on Joe Cain Day

second line
Led by Chief Sac @4:00 pm

**Individuals and Groups will be in Costume
to Commemorate the Event**

For questions please contact joecainmarchers@gmail.com
or Lillian Dean 251-554-2787

LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE

Do you have a Legal or Public Notice that you're required to run? A Legal Notice is an ad that has been Court ordered or Judge mandated to run in a publication certified affidavit as proof of publishing. A Public Notice is one that is not Court ordered or Judge mandated but is required to be run. Send your notices to Steppin' Out and we will typeset your ad and send you the cost and the soonest date that we can run. For more information on notices, please contact us at info@steppinoutmobile.com or at (251) 217-1220.

OBITUARIES

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.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

REQUIREMENTS: Valid Driver's License, Transportation; Some Construction Experience; Ability to Work Some Weekend Days. PAY SCALE: \$12-15 per hour depending on skill set. Will be able to work up. Examples of work include Sheetrock Hanging & Finishing • Painting • Exterior and Interior Renovation Construction Framing • Metal Buildings • Woodwork/Millwork; Misc. Plumbing and Electrical • Bathrooms/Tile Work • Flooring. Email crconstruction.mobile@gmail.com or Phone: 251-751-6545

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	.....	F'hope
	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	.....	F'hope

01 MARCH/Saturday

11:00 am	.....	Foley	Foley
12:00 pm	.....	Krewe of Goats.....	P'chard
12:00 pm	.....	Pritchard Carnival Assoc.....	P'chard
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	.....	Order 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



Voting & Empowering the Black Community

[Stand Up Mobile](#) is celebrating four years as a leading voter engagement organization in the state with the release of a new video:

[Meet Stand Up Mobile](#). The group was founded four years ago in response to the January 06, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol, an effort to subvert the results of the 2020 presidential election.

“As we watched rioters attack our democracy that day, we decided that we could no longer sit on the sidelines,” said Beverly Cooper, co-founder of Stand Up Mobile. “For the sake of our community, city, state and democracy, we knew that we and many others must engage more forcefully in the political process.”

Stand Up Mobile, which first and foremost focuses on voter education and engagement, is also dedicated to year-round civic and community engagement initiatives that build a more informed and empowered citizenry. The organization encourages every member of their community to recognize the power they have to hold elected leaders accountable, influence public policy, and change social outcomes. “At Stand Up Mobile, we believe voting is not an event, it is a process. And, a process we must engage in through educating and empowering our community every day,” said Amelia Bacon, co-founder of Stand Up Mobile. “We are committed to bringing the power of the Black vote to every election – from the school board to the presidential contest.”

Over the past four years, Stand Up Mobile has reached tens of thousands of community members with their message. They’ve registered voters, hosted trainings for volunteers and poll workers, provided voting resources at countless community events, coordinated free rides to the polls, and managed robust digital, field, and phone banking programs. In 2025, Stand Up Mobile will continue to focus on encouraging citizen engagement, providing non-partisan resources to voters, hosting voter education events, highlighting key issues that impact Black families and communities, and supporting youth participation in the political process. They will continue to defend the existence of Alabama's new second Congressional District and inform their communities about the local elections in 2025.

“We’ve come a long way in the past four years. However, our commitment to democracy, civic education, and community engagement remains the same. We believe in our community and in our shared values, especially as we face uncertain times. We truly value your participation and feedback, and we invite you to join us as we pave a way forward together,” said Cooper.

Learn more about Stand Up Mobile and how you can donate or get involved at <https://standupmobile.org>.♣



Let's Fool Around with Politically Correct Speech and Writing.

Is it important as to how you address yourself and introduce yourself to others? We feel that it is important. Several years ago, some of us decided to drop the description, African-American, from our lexicon. One practical reason is that a person of European extraction who is born in Africa and then migrate to the United States of America may have no Millidyne. But upon migrating, that “White person” is entitled to carry the descriptive title of African-American. In all likelihood, the full mentioned person will, check the box describing their ethnicity as “White”. We know why they did this...there are clear advantages to being identified as white. There are clear disadvantages to being identified as African or Black. Interestingly, enough to claim to be white maybe a felonious falsification on a government document and hence subject one to criminal prosecution.

If a white African falsifies their ethnic identity on certain official applications and documents, it is unlikely that anything will be made of it. Why? Because what he or she looks like fits in with the skin characteristics (phenotype) of all the controlling ethnicities of this nation. Why on earth would a white person want to claim an ethnic association with Black Africans? Even when the application form identifies their place of birth as Cape Town, South Africa, the interviewer whether, black or white, would see the interviewee as White.

The inverse and converse of the situation does not result in the same affect. A melanin “flavored” interviewee that identified their self as White might be subjected to criminal prosecution, or, be, summarily discharged from the interview process for falsifying their “race”. The coupling of a phenotypically “White” couple can result in the birth of a phenotypically melanin-loaded offspring. Genetically speaking, when you match human breeding pairs based on their common dominant phenotypic characteristics, eventually a recessive phenotypic characteristic will be matched so as to produce an offspring that reflects the characteristics of the recessive gene.

Simply put, when you roll the dice enough times you will eventually get “snake eyes”. In the presence of modern science, through “in vitro fertilization” loaded dice can be introduced into the game to avoid the effect of “snake eyes”. But in the absence of that, with the “motion of the ocean” and the way “ships go bump in the night”, statistically speaking with a phonetically white breeding couple, a phenotypically melanin-laden off-spring is “just around the corner” or literally “in the next roll” - no pun intended.♣

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PASSINGS

DECEMBER 2024



Jamie Buskey • 87

POLITICIAN/EDUCATOR

Alabama House of Representatives



Judith Jamison • 81

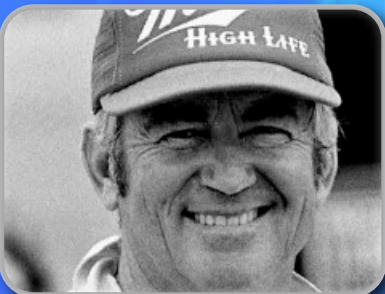
**MUSICIAN
DANCER/CHOREOGRAPHER**

Alvin Ailey Dancers



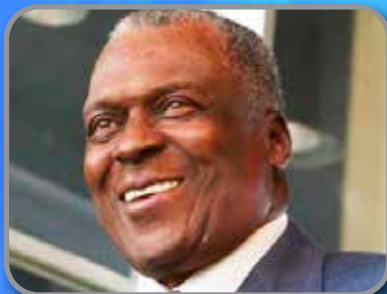
Quincy Jones • 91

PRODUCER/COMPOSER/ARRANGER/ARTIST
Pancreatic Cancer



BOBBY ALLISON • 86

RACE CAR DRIVER
Nascar • Daytona 500



GEORGE BOHANON • 87

JAZZ TROMBONIST



JERRY FAUST • 89

FOOTBALL COACH
Notre Dame • Akron



TERRI GARR • 79

ACTRESS
Close Encounters of the Third Kind
Young Frankenstein
Multiple Sclerosis



DAVID HARRIS • 75

ACTOR
NYPD Blue • Breakers
Cancer



ROY HAYNES • 99

JAZZ DRUMMER



FLORENCE MARIE GOODMAN HUNTER • 95

ACTRESS/SINGER/EDUCATOR
First Black cast in Paul Green's
The Common Glory



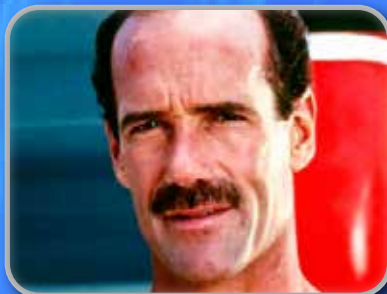
DALLAS LONG • 84

1964 OLYMPIC CHAMPION
Shot Put



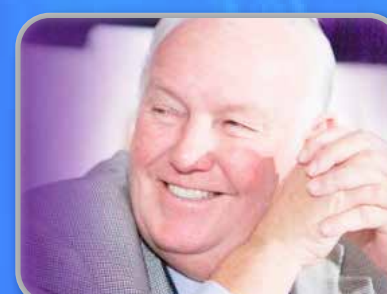
BOB BUTTERBEAN LOVE • 81

NBA
Chicago Bulls
Cancer



MICHAEL NEWMAN • 67

ACTOR
Baywatch
Heart Attack



JOHN ROBINSON • 89

NFL COACH
Los Angeles Rams
Pneumonia



TONY TODD • 69

ACTOR
The Candyman
Platoon • Wishmaster

PASSINGS

JANUARY 2025



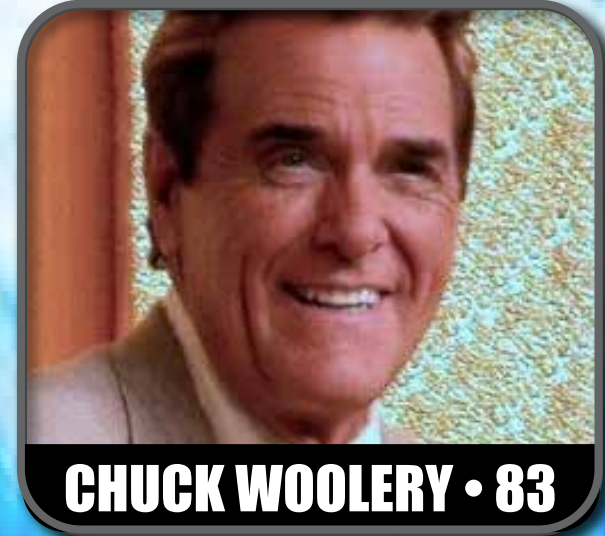
Nikki Giovanni • 81

POET/AUTHOR/PROFESSOR
Lung Cancer



Diva Gray • 72

SINGER
Chicken, Change



CHUCK WOOLERY • 83

GAME SHOW HOST
Wheel of Fortune • Love Connection



DICK VAN ARSDALE • 81

NBA PLAYER
Knicks • Suns
Kidney Failure



MERRICK BURNETT, JR. • 20

FOOTBALL PLAYER
Alabama A&M
Head Injury



LOU CARNESECCA • 99

BASKETBALL COACH
St. John's
Hall of Fame



MICHAEL COLE • 84

ACTOR
The Mod Squad • General Hospital



THOM CHRISTOPHER • 84

ACTOR
One Life to Live
Buck Rogers 25th Century



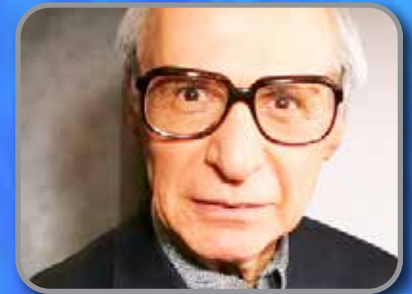
GEORGE CUMMINGS • 86

GUITARIST
Dr. Hook & The Medicine Show



EARL HOLLIMAN • 96

ACTOR
Police Woman
The Twilight Zone



THE AMAZING KRESKIN • 89

MENTALIST
Dementia Complications



STEVE MENSCH • 2

BUSINESS EXECUTIVE
Tyler Perry Studios
Plane Crash



RODEOS BARRETT PORTER • 94

GOSPEL ARTIST
The Barrett Sisters



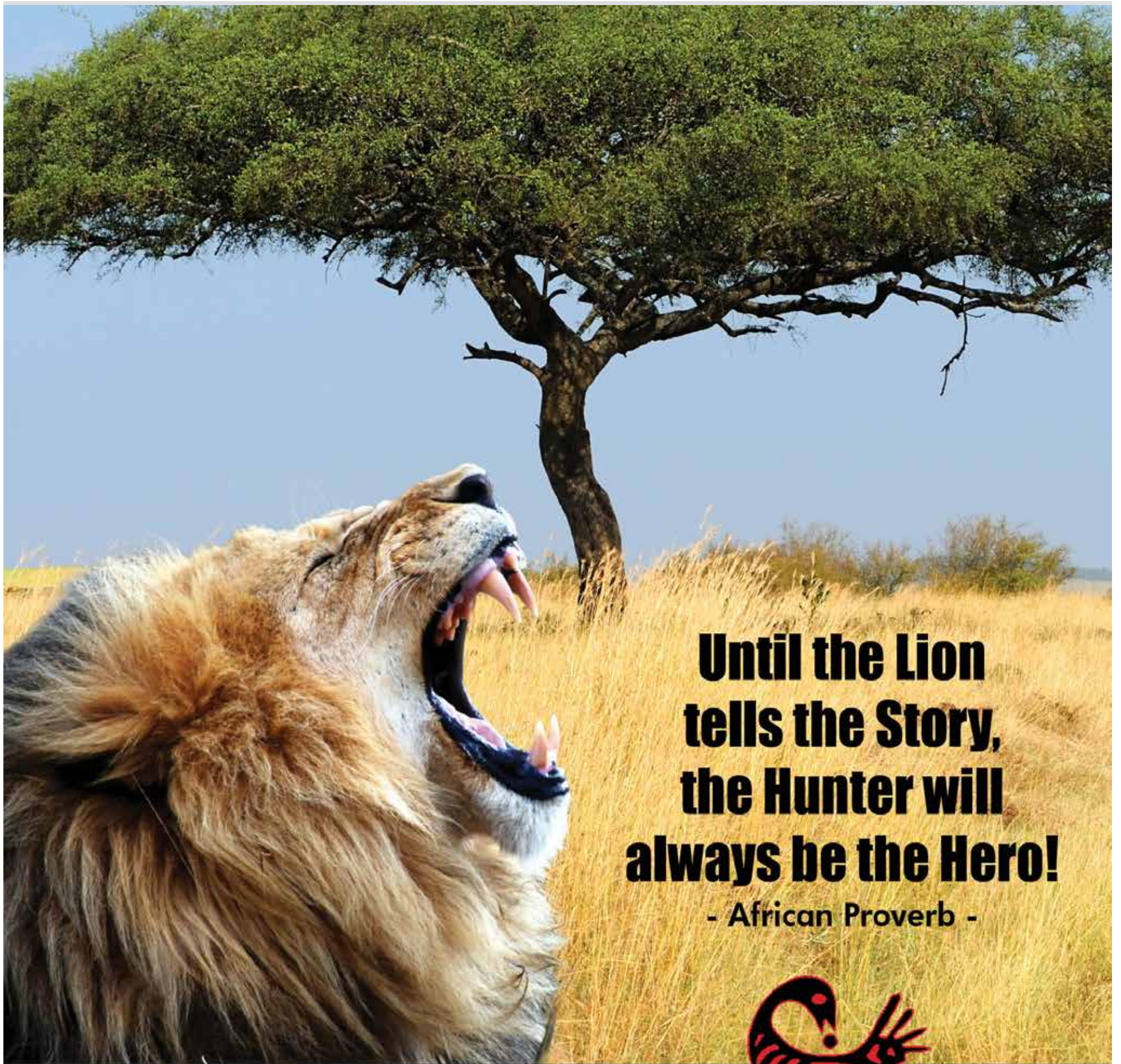
SCOTT L. SWARTZ • 65

ACTOR/STUNTMAN/WRESTLER
Fire Down Below, Savate



JIM TUNNEY • 95

NFL REFEREE



**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!**

SANKOFA
MEDIA GROUP
ALABAMA