

Steppin' ut *News!*

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

VOLUME 25
ISSUE 06

ARTS • CULTURE • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY

APRIL
2025



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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**THINKING OUTSIDE
OF THE BOX**



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Featured Column
**TAKING MOBILE
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the articles printed in Steppin' Out are those of the authors and may not reflect the views and opinions of Steppin' Out, it's owners, advertisers or other authors.

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER...

Kedu Steppin' Out Readers;

Prayerfully, this edition of Steppin' Out finds you doing well. Our numbers continue to grow and again, I must thank you for that growth.



We continue to get phone calls and email inquiries asking where the paper can be found. And, most thankfully, we are getting more inquiries about our advertising cost. Because Steppin' Out is free to the public, advertising is our life blood. And don't forget, the paper was started because of the changes that took place with large corporate media companies moving into this market and restructuring the rates charged to small businesses in Mobile. That change proved to be significant for Black businesses based on where their advertisement dollars were being spent to reach their target audience and the lower rates they were use to paying.

No matter what you may be told about the best way to promote a business, next to the free advertising sources, Word of Mouth (which is great when the Word about your business is good and truthful) or Social Media (which is somewhat limited when it's free), Print is by far the least expensive way to go. This is especially true for businesses or entities with limited budgets. And lets not forget, if you're looking to start and grow a business, advertising should be viewed as an investment in your business, not an expense. Steppin' Out still follows a commitment of being able to offer advertising to our small businesses for as little as \$50 per month. Where else can you advertise your business for a year with the guarantee of a minimum of 10,000 hits per month for \$600? Your ad appears every-time someone picks up the paper. That doesn't happen with any other form of advertising.

Steppin' Out is committed to promoting and providing truthful information about our Culture from Truth Tellers that service our community. We will never pass on information from entities or individuals that have not been honest with you our audience. Our contributors work passionately on their stories to keep you entertained and informed.

Over the next few months we will be adding more contributors to expand the subject matter on our pages, and we'll be adding additional advertising platforms to help your business grow. If you're a business looking to increase foot traffic to your business, become a Steppin' Out distributor. We constantly receive inquiries from citizens about locations near their home or workplace. We provide a rack if you wish to have one and we will deliver the paper to you.

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

GREG CYPRIAN
Publisher/Editor
STEPPIN' OUT NEWS



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

MAY 2025





TAKING MOBILE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Memphis Vaughan Jr.

PUBLISHER, Feedback can be sent to: mempv57@gmail.com

DOWNTOWN MOBILE

CIVIC CENTER



How the System Devastated Black Communities

Recently, while reading comments on a Facebook post, a Black person questioned whether the Voting Rights Act and the various Civil Rights Acts were needed today. His reasoning was that we can vote, and we can live wherever we want, so these acts are not that important. Money is what is important. This person should have been aware that it wasn't too long ago that redlining, denial of funds via the GI Bill, and the development of the interstate system were some of the things that devastated the Black community. When we discuss systemic racism, this is what we are referring to – laws and practices that were built into the American system of how this country operated. It is so engrained in the nation's culture, that many whites don't even realize it occurred and what the impacts were.

Let me break it down...

REDLINING: A practice where banks and federal agencies refused to offer mortgages or insurance in predominantly Black neighborhoods. Agencies such as the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) created color-coded maps that labeled Black and mixed-race neighborhoods as "high-risk," effectively denying residents access to home loans. It forced Blacks into marginalized areas, "the other side of the tracks," and into rental homes that benefitted white owners. This prevented Black families from building wealth through homeownership.

GI BILL DISCRIMINATION: The GI Bill was created to aid veteran returning home from World War II to purchase homes, get job training, and funds to go to college. These benefits were denied to Black veterans through the practice of racist zoning laws, redlining, and other means. Many colleges and vocational

schools upheld segregation and that limited Blacks from taking advantage of the GI Bill. Whites were able to build generational wealth, and Blacks were mostly shut out of these opportunities.

INTERSTATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AND URBAN RENEWAL: When the Interstate system was developed in the 1950's, most routes of the freeway in many cities went straight up the middle of Black communities and Black business districts. Places such as Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Black Bottom in Detroit, Tremé in New Orleans, and Down the Bay in Mobile were impacted by freeway construction and urban renewal. These freeways and demolishing of Black neighborhoods under the guise of urban renewal, led to economic impacts, cultural isolation, pollution, and devalued property in our communities. Once again, wealth building for Blacks was impacted.

These are just three areas where systemic racism has impacted Blacks and Black communities (and other minorities). In each case, it impacted the economic opportunities for Blacks to build wealth, maintain thriving communities, and the system helped to maintain segregation and discrimination. It wasn't until these laws came along in the late '60's and early '70's did things start to change. But the damage was done.

Today, we have an individual in the White House, who is doing his best to slash components of these laws and take away the safeguards that do exist. It is up to us to fight back and ensure we don't return to a time when these things prevailed. Voting is key, political activism is vital, and being aware of your history is crucial. Yes, protecting these laws may help us make money but it will also ensure that everyone is treated fairly and have a chance to live "the American Dream."♣



Arthur L. Mack

FREELANCE WRITER

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COVER STORY



BLOODY SUNDAY AT 60: The More Things Change, The More They Remain The Same!

Few things are as vivid as Bloody Sunday, an event which took place in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965 that changed history — and civil rights. On March 9 of this year, the 60th anniversary of that event took place, and while I was there for the event, I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride at the turnout, I also couldn't help but feel a sense of frustration as not a lot has changed since that day six decades ago.

Sixty years ago, nearly 600 marchers tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge enroute to Montgomery in order to exercise the right to vote. They were viciously attacked by Alabama State Troopers and a county posse with batons and tear gas. That march was sparked by the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson a few days prior to the event. Jackson was shot by an Alabama State Trooper after a march in nearby Marion, Alabama protesting the arrest of a civil rights worker. The violence perpetrated by lawmen during the first attempt to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge created a nationwide outcry, and several days later, however, more than 25,000 people, under the protection of National Guardsmen, marched from Selma to Montgomery, where Dr. Martin Luther King spoke. Later that year, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the 1965 Voting Rights Act bill into law. That law allowed African-Americans the right to vote. It was indeed a turning point in American history, but what about the six decades since that fateful day?

I thought about the struggles those in the movement faced that day when I was in Selma, and wondered about the sacrifices they made to ensure we had the right to vote. I also thought about now, and the way things are now, especially with those individuals who want to turn back the clock. Then, not to mention those who are too apathetic to make a difference. Fortunately, I was not alone in my thoughts. There were many from Mobile, who like myself, were in Selma commemorating the 60th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. Among them they will go out to vote and some will go out and register to vote. If they don't know what we came through so we can do what we can do today, a lot of people are going to be lackadaisical." Then, King and the Voting Rights Act to die," he said. "The more people who see us doing what we're doing, they will go out to vote and some will go out and register to vote. If they don't know what we came through so we can do what we can do today, a lot of people

are going to be lackadaisical." Then, there was Joycelyn Hunt, who along with fellow members of the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, made the trip to Selma. "We need to stress the importance of voting," she said. "It's one of the tools we have to change the direction our country is going in, and I'm so happy to be a part of this historic celebration."

There were people who grew up with me that were in Selma that day. Among them was Alvin Lovett, who was a classmate of mine at the University of South Alabama. Alvin, like myself, grew up in Mobile during the Civil Rights Movement and was in Selma representing People United to Advance the Dream. "The right to vote is our most powerful weapon," he said. "It's that symbolic effort to get that right to vote. Today, it's very important for us to be here because of DEI and the erosion of the rights that have been so important. It's no longer just a black and white (issue), it's a class issue. There are people who are brown; there are people who are disabled; people who are veterans losing their rights."

Bloody Sunday in 1965 was indeed a game-changer. It laid bare the scars of voter suppression and white supremacy, and it proved that non-violence was a very powerful weapon when used to challenge unjust laws. It also emboldened and inspired others to stand up and make a stand. Unlike the 1965 march, when the Alabama State Troopers were all white and ready to crack open heads at the drop of a hat, the troopers at Sunday's march were predominantly Black. And all walks of life were represented at the 60th Anniversary — from dignitaries to fraternity and sorority members, from working class people to unemployed, and covering various religious backgrounds. It was truly a gathering of the masses. Let's be realistic, however. For all that has been done to improve voting rights as well as equality in general, it seems as if America is back to square one. There have been repeated efforts to dilute the gains being made by the Voting Rights Act, which itself lost some of its strength when parts of it were struck down by the Supreme Court in 2013. Add to that a systematic removal of Black history, as well as uncertainty regarding employment in the government and private sector, and many people are rightfully alarmed. ❖



TRUTH , FACTS & JUSTICE

Sabrina Mass

RETIRED NURSE • CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER



SUBSTANCE OVER SKIN COLOR

The local elections for Mobile Alabama are right around the corner as the elders would say. Let this article educate all on the importance on voting for the candidates based on substance, not skin color or popularity. "Voting against the grain" typically refers to the act of voting in a new way that goes against the prevailing opinion or trend within a particular group or society. This can manifest in various contexts, such as political elections, social movements, or community decisions. Voting against the grain can require courage, as it may lead to social ostracism or backlash from peers. However, it can also be seen as an act of integrity, standing up for what one believes is right. When individuals vote against the grain, it can influence the outcome of elections or decisions, especially if a significant number of people share similar dissenting views. This can lead to unexpected results and shifts in political or social landscapes and a refreshing breathe to society.

Throughout history, there have been many instances where voting against the grain has led to significant social change. Movements for civil rights, gender equality, and environmental protection often began with individuals or small groups voting against the prevailing norms. Social psychology suggests that people may feel pressure to conform to group opinions, which can make voting against the grain a challenging decision. Voting against the grain is a complex and multifaceted concept that can reflect individual conviction, social dynamics, and the potential for change within a community or society.

In the elections coming up on August 26, 2025, I suggest all voters to vote purely for a candidate based on substance, integrity, honesty, and proven trust and strength, a person who has shown they can stand up against the oppressors, the elite, the ones that think they are all powerful above any human. Please do not cast your votes based on a skin tone, it has been proven time and time again that just because an individual shares the same SKIN COLOR, eats the same cultural foods, comes from the same or

similar neighborhoods, shares the same struggles, that does not mean THEY are put in elected seats to exemplify your livelihood or to help you or your family move ahead, as a matter of fact many have helped the historical American oppressors to keep you oppressed and suppressed. HOW LONG WILL THE CULTURE BE FOOLED!

At this very moment, I am writing this article for the ONLY BLACK NEWSPAPER in Mobile Alabama! How many subscribe to it? How many of our people read it? How many pay for ads in it? STEPPIN' OUT NEWS vs. the Lagniappe. YES, I said it, and mean it. BUT yet, we as a black community say we are, BLACK and PROUD! ARE YOU!

Steppin' Out has been around for 24 years! How many local elections have been run in Mobile and Prichard during that time??? And, we recently had a Black candidate running for a national office who sent out press releases on the millions of dollars he raised. Do you know how many candidates of any color have supported this publication during those 24 years... ZERO, yes Not a one. Maybe they think readers of this publication are not important or that they don't need its readers because you'll vote for them because of their Skin Color or because you went to high school with them. That's not a good enough reason. They should work for your vote...they should EARN it. And if they want to run on Color, look around to see if they support the Color they assume they will get support from and not just look for photo ops when it's convenient. Have you seen them in your Black business or in any Black business for that matter? Make sure your vote counts so those elected can be accountable to you. Make sure all of them understand that this time it's going to take more than a Blues concert and free fish and watermelon to earn your vote! And more importantly, more than Skin Color!!!

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! • AUGUST 26, 2025✿



Heman Bekele, a 15-year-old who invented a soap that fights skin cancer, has been named TIME's Kid of the Year 2024

DID YOU KNOW...

- There were **African American Advisors** to President Franklin D. Roosevelt who were called the **"Black Brain Trust."**
- In 2018, at the age of 18, **Maame Biney** became the **first African American woman** to qualify for the **U.S. Speedskating Olympic team.**
- The famous cartoon character **Betty Boop** drew inspiration from Black Jazz Singer **Esther Jones.**
- **Adolph Plessey**, a Black man arrested for entering a railroad, took his case to the Supreme Court, which ended with the **"separate but equal"** decision of Plessey vs. Ferguson.

"Kenbassador"

Mattel to release it's **First Male Professional Athlete**

to have a **KEN DOLL!**

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TWO YALE STUDENTS RAISE \$3.1M IN 14 DAYS TO LAUNCH AI-POWERED SOCIAL NETWORK

QUINTESSENTIAL GENTLEMAN



Major Melvin Jones

Captain Matthew Garrett

The Mobile Police Department has selected Major Melvin Jones and Captain Matthew Garrett as Deputy Chiefs of the department.

Major Jones

24-YEAR VETERAN
of the Department

Shaw High School
GRADUATE

Captain Garrett

28-YEAR VETERAN
of the Department

Bayside Academy
GRADUATE

3RD GENERATION
MPD Officer



**DECEMBER 2024
FIREFIGHTER of the MONTH**

Derrick T. Johnson

Derrick Johnson

4-YEAR VETERAN
of the Department

DRIVER
13+ Years

RESCUE AND HAZMAT TECHNICIAN

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM
Since its Inception

**f WWII
166**



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

APRIL 19 @2:00 PM

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



**The 92nd
Film
Satur**

**We invite you
in Bernh
"The Were**



Arthur L. Mack
 FREELANCE WRITER
steppinoutnews@aol.com



Crichton Fire Station

Renamed after Alex Trenier

Mobile City Councilmembers voted unanimously to rename the Crichton Fire Station after the late Mobile Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief Alex Trenier.

Trenier, who had several relatives serving as firefighters over a more than 100-year period, passed away on Feb. 23. He rose through the ranks, promoting to driver in 1991 and Captain in 1994.



"It's a sad day, but it's a happy day," said Trenier's son John, a captain for Engine 14 after the council voted to make the change. "I'm happy we're able to get this done, not just for my father, but for my grandfather, my uncle and so many other firefighters before me who never had an opportunity like this. We're just trying to honor him the best way we can. He never wanted to be up front; he didn't want any recognition, but he deserves it. It's recognition for him and so many others who came before him. My father was into community outreach and mentorship, mentoring young men and women in the fire service and preparing them for the next level. He made leaders, and that was the type of man he was."

Alex Trenier made history when he was promoted as one of the city's first Black district chiefs in 2001. He was promoted to deputy chief in 2018. He received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career. In recent years he developed a strong community relationship with neighboring Dumas Wesley Community Center, sending firefighters over to spend time with kids during after-school programs.

Councilmember Cory Penn, whose district includes the fire station, said Trenier was someone special in the community. "He's somebody who cannot be replaced," Penn said as Trenier's family, co-workers, and others were in attendance at the March 5 meeting. "He developed a relationship with the Dumas Wesley Community Center, and he was the prime example of a perfect officer, mentor, and teacher, and public safety servant." ♣

**Alabama State University
 Gulf State Chapter Alumni Association
 announced its 2025-2027 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

CONGRATULATIONS to ALL!



Deberah Williams Carter,
 President



Macenia Hill,
 Vice President



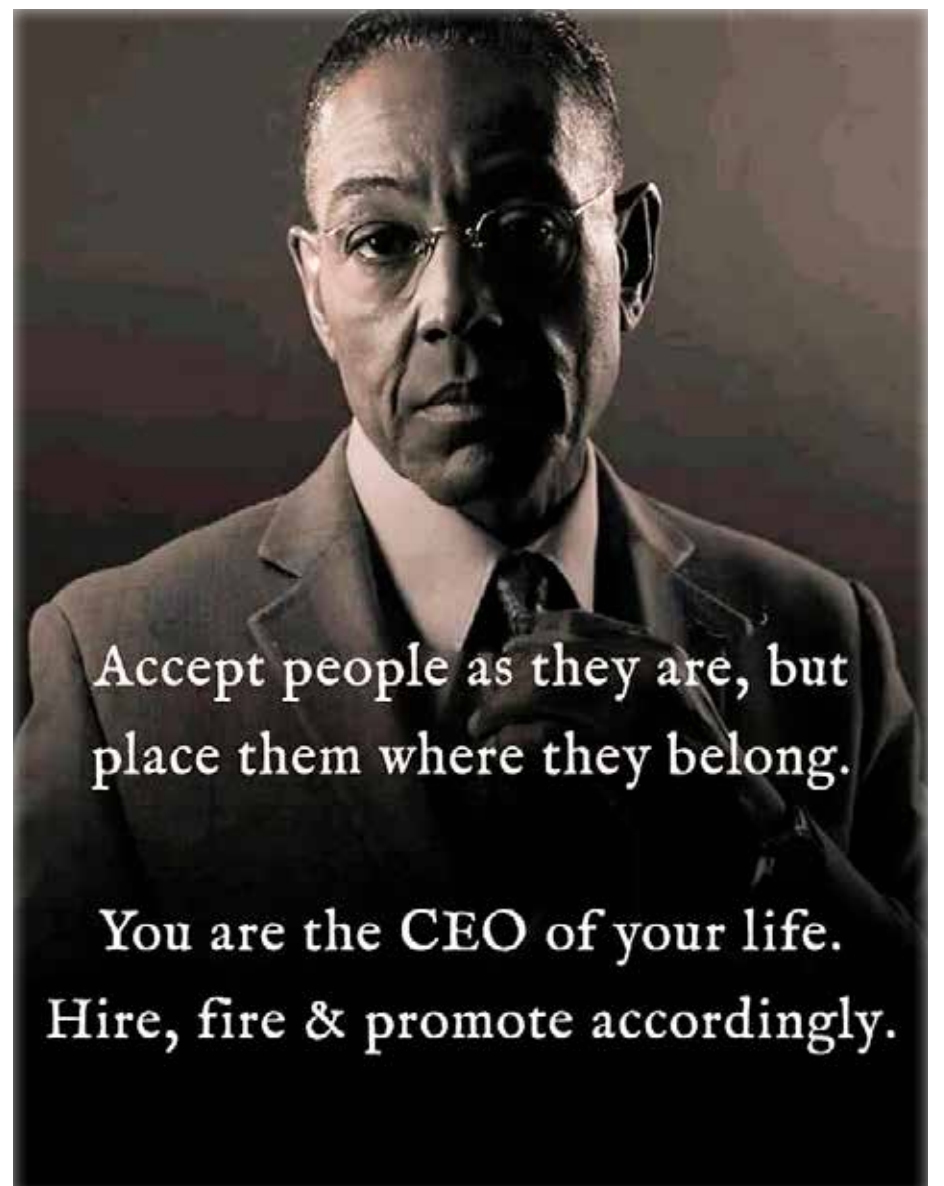
Tavonnica Cornner,
 Treasurer



LaMonica Lee,
 Financial Secretary



Shemika Brown,
 Recording Secretary





Financial Tips Gwendolyn Hall



It's Tax Time

It is now time to prepare for filing your 2024 Income Taxes. Some may have already completed this task and even received a refund! For those who have not, let us get it done. You should have received all the documentation you need to be prepared. Whether you file yourself or have someone else do it, make sure you are ready to proceed.

Here are a few of the same tips we shared last year:

1. Gather Your Information!

- Personal information (social security number, copy of last year's tax return and bank information if receiving funds or making payments).
- Income information (W2, 1099, Interest Income, Tips, Income tax refund, unemployment benefits, taxable alimony, gambling winnings, and any other income received in 2024).
- Deductions and credits (childcare costs, education costs, home mortgage interest, charitable donations, property taxes, investment fees). If you own a business do not forget those business expenses.
- Income adjustments (IRA contributions, student loan interest, moving expenses, out of pocket medical and dental expenses and energy credits) may help reduce the amount of taxes you owe or increase your refund.

2. Once you have all your information together, put it in a folder and get ready to file. It is always best to make a checklist to assure you have included everything needed.

3. Whether you file yourself or use a tax preparer, remember to file on time. Be thorough and look for any new deductions or tax credits. The tax deadline this year to file your 2024 taxes is April 15. If you are receiving a refund, do not hesitate to file early and get your refund.

4. If you owe additional taxes, you may still be able to alleviate or minimize the amount if you are eligible to make an IRA contribution for 2024 (check with your tax accountant).

5. Once you get this done, it is time to look at your information and start preparing for next year. My best advice is to start a file for 2025 placing all your information in it during the year. Next year you will be ready to go without hesitation!❖



Keynote Speaker: Jené Watson

Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society

Presents

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

DEFINING CREOLE:

EXPLORING IDENTITY, CULTURE, AND MEANING

June 13-15, 2025

Daniele Simpson
with Kréyol Konèkt

Taalib Pierre-Auguste
President of Louisiana Creole, Inc.



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

—JAMES BALDWIN—

BLACK AMERICAN POLITICS

Joseph Mitchell PhD
CITIZEN MUSICIAN & POLITICIAN



There were several wars, and violence was encouraged; for example, European settlers were paid a bounty for each Penobscot person they killed. In the 19th century; 4,000 Cherokee people died on the Trail of Tears, a forced march from the southern U.S. to Oklahoma. In the 20th Century, civil rights violations were common, and discrimination continues to this day.

This writer, in previous editions of this press, has expounded and elucidated on the “circumstances” surrounding the presence of Black Africans on this continent. There is more to come specifically as it pertains to the prison industrial complex. Note: UCLA School of Law’s Behind Bars Data Project — formerly the COVID Behind Bars Data Project — has launched a database that tracks the number of people who died while incarcerated, the only nationwide accounting of recent deaths in U.S. prisons.

As the federal government ceased reporting on deaths in custody in 2019, the project’s carceral mortality database is the country’s most comprehensive public resource tracking prison deaths — from all causes — nationwide. Its database serves as a partial replacement for — and, in significant ways, improvement upon — the former federal reporting, which never included individual or facility-level data.

The outcome of the 2024 presidential election should demand that should/would return and buttress our suspicious nature and predictions. A case in point: When a person of European, Asian or Western hemispheric extraction utters any statement, then be doubtful of its veracity, i.e., truth, of that statement. At least be mindful that the statement will mean one thing to them and something else entirely different to Black folk and indigenous folk. The phrase, “make America great again,” sounds innocuous. I.e., not harmful or offensive. Red flag, and sirens should jump up in the minds of Black folk at the sound of ‘make’ because it means that we will be doing all of the work to do the making. When Black folk and Indigenous folk hear the word “America”, they should lock all of their doors because it means that they are about to lose everything!!

“To the victor go the spoils” is an expression that means the winner of a competition, election, or military victory takes everything, including the spoils or benefits from the loser. It can also refer to the spoils system in American politics, where the winner of an election gives government jobs to their supporters. The winner will write “HIS-STORY” so as to glorify himself and to make righteous his purpose and his deeds. Had Hitler won World War II, imagine how he would have had described his eradication of the Jews and everybody else who he “knew” to not be Aryan. Even at that white hegemony is still in power and in political control.♣

**A Child Educated
Only At School
Is An
UNEDUCATED CHILD!**

Moments in Time Paulette Horton



Mt. Olive Baptist Church No.1



Mt Olive Baptist Church No.1, located at 409 Lexington Avenue, started in the Davis Avenue area in 1914. It started in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Jackson. Mules and wagon were a common site at the church. When people moved from rural towns in Alabama for work, a place of worship was a top priority.

During the church's renovation, the congregation worshiped in the basement of the nearby Truevine Baptist Church.

Rev. Stokes died January 19, 2001 and was buried in the Lawn Haven Cemetery.♣



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Greg Cyprian
PUBLISHER/EDITOR
Steppin' Out News

Now's The Time To Become Political

Hello Steppin' Out Readers. We all of have been bombarded with the message about the importance of getting out to vote. Notice I didn't say getting registered to vote. That's intentional because I'm assuming that if you're picking up this paper, you're a responsible person that for the most part, has a willingness to continue to become more knowledgeable and educated about the world we live in, and at the very least, to have a say about the space you're in. To me, that means you're at least registered, but the bigger question is, Do You Actually Exercise Your Right To Vote? A look at Turnout based on those registered in each precinct after an election would suggest that "We Ain't Voting," especially in Black precincts.

Mainstream Media has no need to deliver a message to make Black voters believe that their votes don't count. We do that on our on. I can understand how there's frustration with the two main political parties because the Democrats (Republicans during Lincoln's time), and the Republicans (formerly the Dixiecrats) have done little to understand the true needs of our communities today. I Get It. But, just by what's going on at the National level, you've got to understand the fallacy of "My Vote Don't Count"!

Although the opportunity to determine the outcome on a national level has temporarily gone by, you'll get some other opportunities, your concentration should now be on State and Local elections. You absolutely have to get political because based on what's happening nationally, you see what happens if you don't. You need to care about You.

In August, the cities of Prichard and Mobile have municipal elections. Take a look at the issues you care about. Take a look at your neighborhood, at your community...and then take a look at the current leadership in place. Have they addressed your and your communities needs? If so, get out there and support them again, if not, get to those community meetings that they should be having on a regular basis and ask them why not. We have new faces and faces we have seen before seeking your vote. Are they holding meetings in your community? Those meetings should be packed with you in attendance. Make them squirm if that what's it takes to earn your vote. Make them give you a reason why they should receive it. It can't be because we went to high school together, we're the same Race, or we go to the same church. Your vote can't be automatic.

And by all means, lets not fall for the "Banana in the Tailpipe" again. Concerts, free food, and signs all over your neighborhood should not be able to earn your vote or make you stay home. We all need substance from these folks. Listen to what they are saying and where they are saying it. Show up to where they are speaking and not where you're expected to be to see if the message is changing. Make sure they're getting their message to you in the way you need to hear it and by all means, once they're elected, hold them accountable! Too often we complain about what folks ain't doing to friends and family but not to the people that are responsible. If city council meetings aren't convenient for you, make that an issue. Some progressive cities have a set daytime meeting, like Mobile, but one meeting per month or quarter in the evening to accommodate residents that work during the day but need to be heard. Neither Prichard or Mobile need things being done the same old way. You're my friends control that narrative...
GET POLITICAL!!!✿

Mobile Mayoral Candidates RAISE OVER \$1 MILLION In Fundraising

As of this printing, the Alabama Secretary of State released financial information that shows the amount of funds raised by candidates for the Mayoral Race in Mobile.

Spiro Cheriogotis	\$384,447
Connie Hudson	\$377,737
Jermaine Burrell	\$96,431
Barbara Drummond	\$89,525
Paul Prine	\$33,990
Lawrence Batiste IV –	\$13,297
Michael Woodard –	\$580

JULY 01, 2025
Official Qualifying Municipal Elections Begin
JULY 15, 2025
Closing Date
AUGUST 26, 2025
Elections for all Alabama Municipalities
in Southwest Alabama

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Literary Corner...

This month, Steppin' Out continues to feature local authors and their Works. One of this month's author's contribution focuses on Autism. Make sure you seek next month's edition of Steppin' Out, as we will feature an article on Autism and how it's affecting the Black Community!



LaSandra Lyles

...a native of Tuscaloosa who now teaches at Whitley Elementary in Prichard as a Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher. Her love of story-telling comes from a place of faith. "I truly believe God placed a vision in my heart to write books that reflect His purpose and creativity. I believe stories have the power to shape young minds, and I am enthusiastic about creating books that spark imagination, inspires confidence, and celebrates self-discovery", she said. Through her stories, she hopes to encourage children to dream big, believe in themselves, and find joy in reading. This book is about a snail that has a big problem, he has lost his shell. Feeling out of place and a bit scared, the snail sets off on a brave adventure to find his missing home. Along the way, he meets his friend Manue, a curious and kindhearted snail who promises to help him find his home. Together they journey through bubbling brooks, and towering hills, meeting new friends and valuable lessons along the way. The snail realizes that home is not just a place, it is the love and support of those who care about you.♣



Melody A. Patterson

...the author of The Smallest Pair, two (2) Coloring books, and one (1) Activity book. She also has produced a Children's C/D entitled Harmony's World of Music. She most recently launched her public speaking platform entitled MPowered. This book introduces Genuis, who has Autism and is a Literacy Genius. He excels in Math, Science, and Music. The author wrote this book to start the conversation about children with Autism being Genius' and gifted, and our community is seeing an increased number of Autism cases. ♣



Cicone Prince

This book is a personal discovery guide to healing your Inner Child. It has been years in the making and Prince realized that introducing its readers to themselves would not be complete without the introduction to their Inner Child. "So many of us have been fighting our Inner Child, pacifying our Inner Child, or even worse, ignoring our Inner Child," said Cicone. He wants to walk the reader through the process of making Peace with their Inner Child to help them develop into a person who can thrive in any environment and then teach others to do the same. Cicone is an international Motivational Speaker, Personal Development Strategist, and Award-Winning Author. He is CEO of CiconePrince.com whose slogan is "Making Motivation Personal by Introducing a You to Yourself." He is the host of the Annual Next Level Leadership Summit, Chief Editor of Next Generation Speakers Magazine, and also host of TV show "The CiconePrince.com Show" airing in Atlanta and Orlando, FL. He can be contacted at cicone@ciconeprince.com or at 251-753-6299.♣



Hats Off

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Jaadaa Holcombe

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SERVICE AWARD**
FROM LIGHT OF THE VILLAGE



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James-Golston**



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76 **BLESSED YEARS**

HAPPY *Birthday*
Emile Eaton



Celebrating
95 **BLESSED YEARS**

Congratulations!

Bianca Clarke



NAMED
**FEMALE HIP HOP
ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

Congratulations!

Kori Jones-Thomas



NAMED
ZETA WOMAN OF THE YEAR
DELTA THETA ZETA CHAPTER

Hats Off

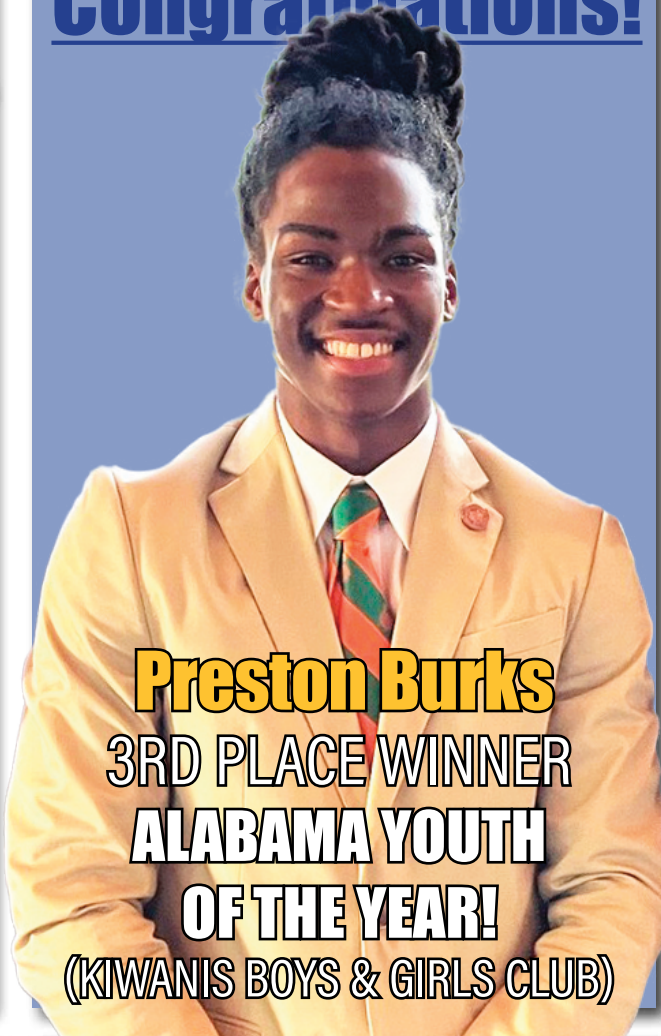
HAPPY Birthday

**Juanita Jones
Robinson**



Celebrating
86 BLESSED YEARS

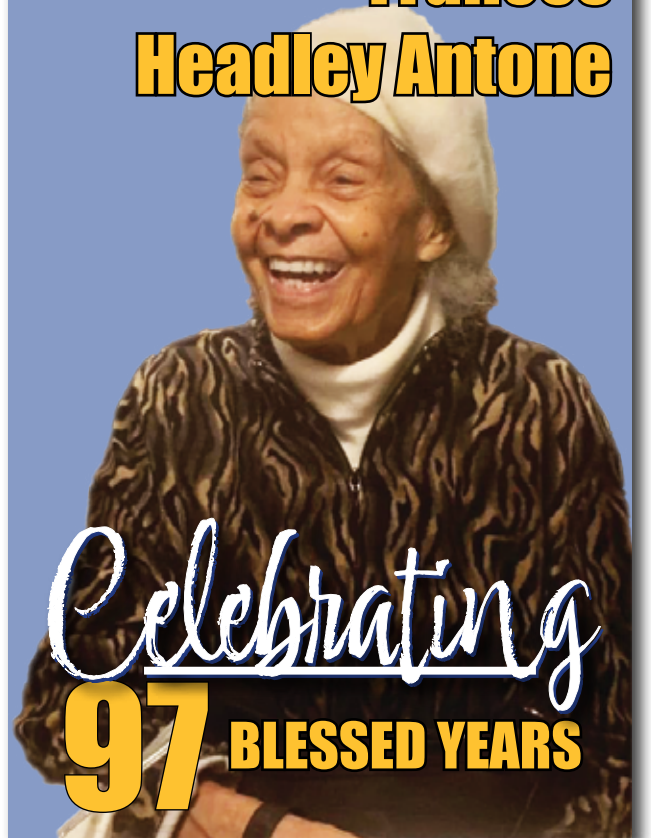
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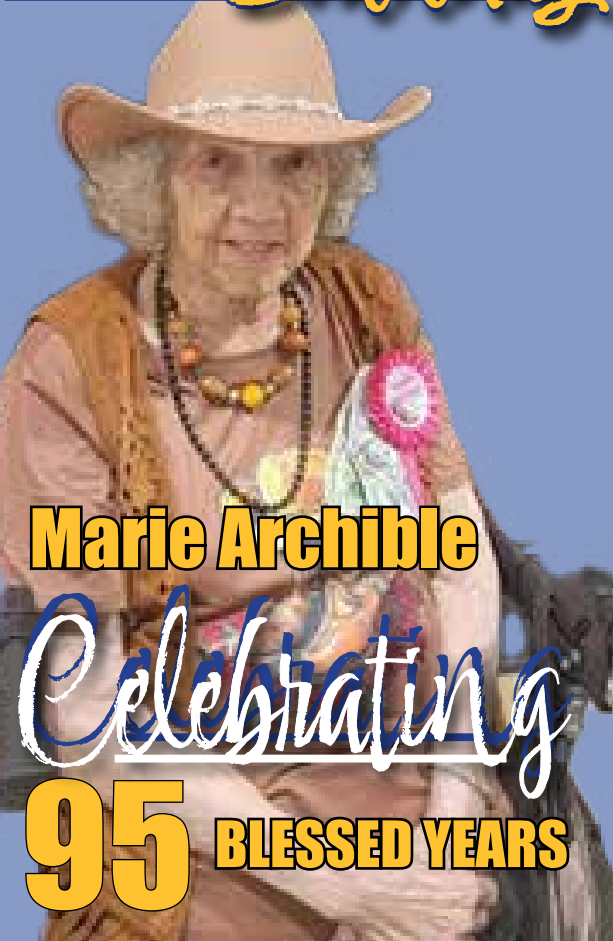
**Frances
Headley Antone**



Celebrating
97 BLESSED YEARS

HAPPY Birthday

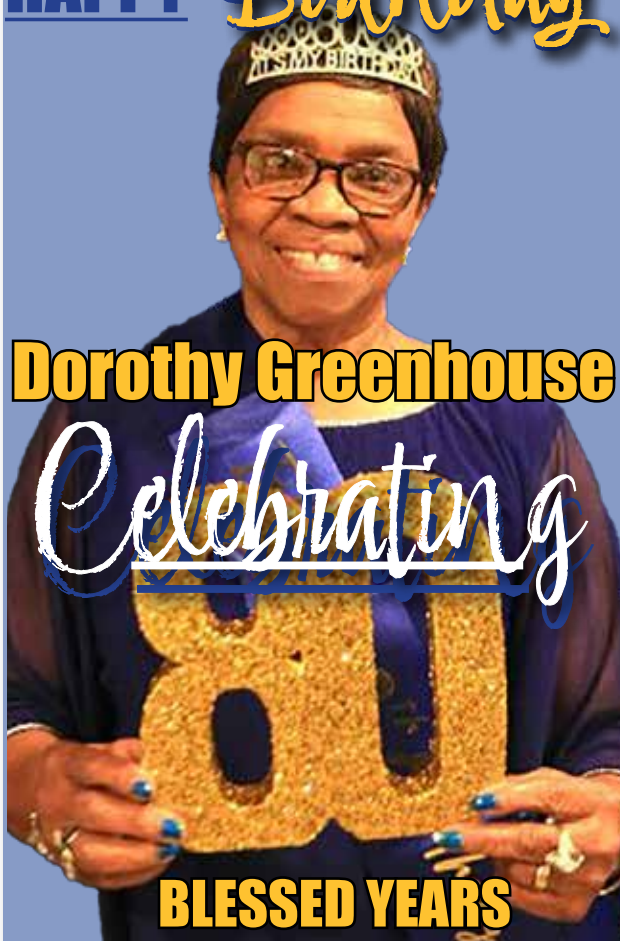
Marie Archible



Celebrating
95 BLESSED YEARS

HAPPY Birthday

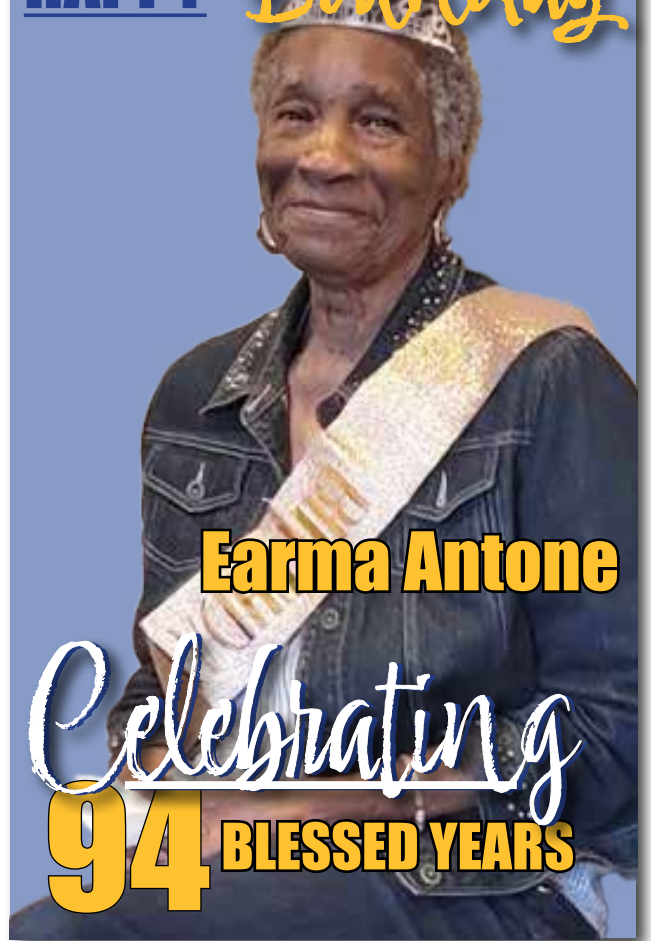
Dorothy Greenhouse



Celebrating
80
BLESSED YEARS

HAPPY Birthday

Earma Antone



Celebrating
94 BLESSED YEARS



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Arthur L. Mack

FREELANCE WRITER

steppinoutnews@aol.com

WORDS OF CAUTION... AND WARNING

Well, numerous Federal jobs are being eliminated or in jeopardy because the Trump administration, along with their designated attack dog Elon Musk have made it their business to create total chaos for the sake of eliminating “government waste.” Despite what Trump and his buddies are telling you, I’m begging you, I’m pleading with you... hell, I’m telling you, don’t buy into the hype. See, this is part of Project 2025 — an insidious plan to remove organizations designed to help the American people and put power into the hands of a select few. And, I can tell you for a fact, these select few will eventually be calling all the shots as far as how we live, work, and play.

Think back to last year, when some of us got wind about Project 2025. Remember when Donald Trump himself swore up and down about he had nothing to do with this plan? Remember how he said he had nothing to do with the individuals who crafted this evil piece of work? Well, friends, as events later proved, not only did Trump have his fingerprints all over Project 2025, he all but encouraged his cronies to put the plan into action. Already, we’re beginning to see the results of this — the elimination of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity (DEI), but also the closure of agencies such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and other Federal agencies that caused thousands to lose their jobs or being forced to take buyouts. Yes, friends, that includes employees of the National Weather Service, the Federal Administration Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Ah yes, but that’s just the tip of the iceberg. There’s also this little matter about grossly unqualified Cabinet picks and those who are targeted because they simply did their jobs as required by the U.S. Constitution during the January 6 hearings and those who played a role in having Trump prosecuted because of his role in the storming of the Capital and other transgressions.

There are also questions about whether Social Security recipients will be able to continue to receive checks. In addition, there is also the matter of immigration and the rounding up of said immigrants who are in this country illegally. Sure, Musk can talk smack about trying to eliminate government waste. Sure, there are those who are glad that something is done about illegal immigration. I don’t believe in wasteful spending myself, and if there are those who are here illegally and committing crimes, then they should be arrested. Here’s the problem: When you use draconian measures to quote, “Make America Great Again”, there are bound to be problems... big problems. To me (and countless others), this is tantamount to a dictatorship. Many of us sounded the alarm that something like this would happen before the 2024 elections, and now it’s happening in living color!

What’s bound to happen if you have power in the hands of a few who are not constitutionally authorized to use power in the guise of eliminating wasteful spending, problems are going to arise. You’re going to have disruption of basic services. You’re going to create, in the case of the elimination of organizations such as USAID, a worldwide humanitarian crisis. Snatching up refugees who are legitimately fleeing oppression from other countries and coming here for a better life, and separating their families certainly doesn’t jibe with my idea of what America should be about. Let’s not even talk about what the elimination of DEI will do as far as opportunities for Blacks and other marginalized people who are talented and simply want a fair

-continued in next column... see **WORDS**

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WORDS... continued in next column

chance to prove their worth. In other words, the American people’s lives are being destroyed right before their very eyes.

What really puzzles me is that there are those in public trust (i.e., politicians) who would rather bow down to the Trump regime instead of doing the right thing, as well as those who are cheering them on. It’s nothing short of shameful, and on top of that, goes against the teachings of Jesus Christ. Fortunately, there are those who are fighting in the streets and in the courts. I have a feeling that more people are going to speak up and do something. If they don’t, there’s going to be even more heartbreak for the American people. At the very least, the midterm elections could see a major change. Otherwise, there will be a major uprising, and it’s not going to be pretty.♣

DISRESPECT
Can Permanently Shut Doors
That Apologies Cannot Re-Open!
– READ THAT AGAIN! –



NAACP

The NAACP, joined by the National Education Association and other allies, filed a lawsuit leading the fight to stop the Trump administration's illegal attempt to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. The Department of Education supports over 50 million students and gives nearly \$120 billion to help students in grades K-12 across the country. It supports students with disabilities, promotes equal educational opportunities, bolsters the educator workforce, and administers the Federal Student Aid Programs that help students pay for college. Eliminating it would jeopardize more than 400,000 educator jobs, threaten support for 7.5 million students with disabilities, and leave millions of students vulnerable to discrimination.

The lawsuit alleges that Trump does not have the authority to close the Department of Education. We've asked the court to halt the Administration's attempt to dismantle the Department immediately.

The organization refuses to stand idly by as our communities are left unprotected. This is not leadership. If the president refuses to protect American children, the NAACP will use every tool possible to put them first.

The NAACP is fighting to protect our children's futures and their right to an education, but they need your partnership more than ever! Help them fight back by donating today.

###

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Are you looking for are, do you know someone looking for a scholarship? The NAACP is offering a great opportunity to those looking for free money to further their education.

THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDE:

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Building Beautiful Futures Scholarship Powered by Dark & Lovely

Empowering a Better Tomorrow Scholarship Powered by Walmart

James Weldon Johnson Scholarship

Hubertus W. V. Williams Scholarship

The Ed Dwight Scholarship

The NAACP x Society Awards Scholarship

The Dearmont-Dyas Scholarship

Visit naacp.org/scholarships to learn more.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!



The Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is seeking public input on the **2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**. The Plan Summary Report will be available for review starting **March 10, 2025** online... <https://www.mobilempo.org/2050.html> and at select public locations.

You are also invited to an Open House to discuss the plan:

APRIL 3, 2025

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

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Your feedback is essential in shaping the future of transportation in our community.

Please submit comments to transportation@sarpc.org.

For more details, visit <https://www.mobilempo.org/2050.html>.



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Creole History Highlights

Tracy Neely

PRESIDENT: MOBILE CREOLE CULTURAL
AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

THE HISTORY OF Lincoln Cemetery

Marion W. Goodridge



The history of Lincoln Cemetery is still unfolding. It is, to say the least, complex. Once covering both sides of Mobile Street, that it is gone, is an overwhelming thought. It is in no way Creole, which is the mainstay of my research. But it is history, and it is important. And every so often, I feel the need to research someone who was buried there.

Marion W. Goodridge was a descendant of the Johnson, Gardner and Woods families, all of which seem to converge upon Mobile from Selma. He was born on May 08, 1916, in Mobile, Alabama, to Willie Goodridge and Ethel Johnson. His life was brief, but it was filled with adventure and travel. His father, Willie Goodridge, was reportedly from South America, though little else is known about him. While his mother's family was large, Marion's early years were spent in Mobile, where he lived with his mother, aunt Nettie Jefferson, and his grandparents, Adam and Lee Ida Johnson. Sometime after 1920, he and his mother relocated to Manhattan. The 1940 Census revealed that Ethel had been living in New York by 1935 before eventually returning to Mobile.

Marion's maritime life began in the early 1930s. He was documented on passenger manifests traveling between ports such as Montevideo, Bermuda, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and New York. In 1934, he applied for his Seaman's Protection Certificate, an essential form of identification for American sailors to prevent them from being conscripted into foreign navies. At the time of his application, Marion had already served as a mess boy aboard the SS City of Norfolk, a passenger liner that once served as a naval vessel before being converted for transatlantic travel. Later that same year, Marion joined the Munson Steamship Line and began working aboard the Pan America as a bell boy. The Munson Line operated routes throughout the Caribbean and South America, providing opportunities to see parts of the world that many could only dream of visiting. The company, however, was facing financial trouble, and by 1937, it was taken over by the United States Shipping Board. Despite these challenges, Marion continued his work at sea, experiencing the thrill of maritime life while navigating the uncertain waters of a struggling industry.

While records of his personal life remain scarce, it appears that Marion married a woman named Bettie in Manhattan in 1936. However, the details of their union remain elusive. Whether or not his marriage endured, Marion's life took a tragic turn in 1940 when he sustained a facial injury that led to septicemia. After battling the infection for sixteen days, he passed away on August 13, 1940, in Neely Station. Marion Goodridge saw the world from the deck of a ship, experiencing and countries far Mobile, Alabama. On August 19, 1940, he was laid to rest in Lincoln Cemetery. Though his life was short, it was filled with excitement many only dream of. His story is a testament to adventurer in each of us.♣



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APRIL 2025

Bishop State Community College and Tuskegee University Sign MOU



A new Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between Bishop State Community College and Tuskegee University will provide a seamless pathway for Bishop State students to transfer associate degree credits toward a bachelor's degree at Tuskegee University. The signing ceremony took place on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at the Gene Haas Center for Advanced Manufacturing Technology on the Downtown Campus.

The MOU establishes a partnership that will create a collaborative transfer process for Bishop State students to transfer to Tuskegee University, ensuring a smooth transition for those pursuing advanced degrees. This collaboration will provide students with greater access to academic resources, scholarships, and mentorship opportunities. Under the agreement, Bishop State students who earn an Associate of Art or Associate of Science degree, may be eligible for admission to Tuskegee University with up to a maximum of 64 semester hours transferring.

In the MOU, Tuskegee University agrees to award three transfer scholarships for eligible students every Fall. They will also provide currently enrolled Bishop State students access to athletic events, the learning resource center, career services, the transfer mentorship program, along with other resources.

For more information about the partnership, please contact Dr. Victoria Perry at vperry@bishop.edu or call 251-405-7088.

###

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YOU DON'T GET AFRAID.
COURAGE MEANS
YOU DON'T LET
FEAR STOP YOU!**



A Little Mobile Flava



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

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

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

GCEHF TEMPLE SCHEDULE

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

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

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

Welcome Steppin' Out **NEW CONTRIBUTORS!**

Hello Steppin' Out Readers...We're growing again thanks to you. Because of that, we're adding three new contributors to our current All-Star lineup. You will notice over the next few months that because of what's happening on a national level, we are focusing more on health and wellness, our history, and more opinions about how our neighborhoods and the decisions being made about them are affecting the residents living in them. So, let us introduce you to our new folks:

Dorshell Ferrell



...born in Mobile and grew up in the Prichard, Whistler and Eight Mile areas. She is a graduate of C.F. Vigor High School. She attended Bishop State Community College for Nursing, and graduated from the University of Mobile with a BSN. She has practiced Nursing for over 30 years. Her desire to become a nurse began as a child at the age of 6 while watching a nurse on the Soap Opera The Young and The Restless. "I became inspired with how she helped her patient recover and feel better", she said. "The nurse was patient, kind, gentle, and professional, after that, whenever someone in my family would become ill, I would do my best to help them feel better." She has worked at University and Providence Hospitals, and is currently at USA Children and Women Hospital on their Mother/Baby Unit as a Postpartum Nurse. She's also worked at Prime Health and USA Family Practice, Springhill Senior Residence, Eastern Shore Nursing and Rehabilitation, AltaPointe Health System, and BayPointe Hospital. So with this wealth of experience and knowledge, Dorshell decided to add something else to her repertoire, Massage Therapy. Now, as a Licensed Massage Therapist, she has started a business, Harmony Health Essentials, and has started a platform that she will be presenting to you in her column "Massage: The Dessert in Healthcare." To you she says, "Life and Health is about having a balance. This includes the Physical, made up of diet and sleep, and our Mental and Emotional Well-being." Her column will introduce and educate what therapeutic massage is and the health benefit it delivers. She will discuss the history and etiology of massage therapy and the positive impact of health maintenance and restoration it can provide.



Elicia Olivera Jaxon (EJ)



...is a native of Mobile who spent part of her childhood in Idaho, is a graduate of Leflore High School. Growing up in a biracial family forced her to navigate the challenges of her identity in a society that overlooked the complexities of her background. That backdrop has allowed her to develop a commitment to uncovering and sharing the rich cultural history of People of Color. She gives back to her community through her volunteer work at the Tricksey Senior Citizen Center in Trinity Gardens where she helps Elder Thomas Dixon facilitate Bible Study. Her column, Blaque History 24/7/365, will serve as an ongoing celebration and exploration of the untold, often overlooked, and powerful history of Black and Brown communities. Each month she'll highlight our history, culture, and current events, emphasizing the profound impact People of Color have had throughout history... and continue to have today. The goal of her column is to shed light on the full scope of our history with a commitment to educating and empowering readers every day of the year.



Maya Angelou is Out but 'Mein Kampf' Stays at the Naval Academy Library!

Betty Mack Shinn



...a native of Mobile and a graduate of Central High School. Her family was among the first to move into the Roger Williams Housing Project in 1954. For the Black parents of the Baby Boomer Generation, the well heated brick homed neighborhood conveniently located to public transportation was a paradise to many families during Jim Crow. The community also offered another much needed amenity, Daycare. After graduation, she started college in 1968 at the University of South Alabama, although she longed to attend Dillard in New Orleans. South was composed of three buildings at that time but she remembers fondly hanging out with a small group of Black students in the basement of the administration building. She defiantly wore jeans to class where she had written on them the words "Seize the Power and Power to the People". She ended up earning her B.A. from Spring Hill College and went on to earn her Masters. She has a love for reading, writing, and social media. She spends a large amount of time researching her family history. She also spends time learning about the legislative process in Alabama, especially on the subject of Voting Rights. She has worked with various nonprofits in the city and is very spiritual by nature. Her column is entitled "Counterpoint". She will attempt to deliver a perspective on current issues seasoned by having come of age during a period when legal segregation was the law of the land, and the order of the day. She is familiar with technology that those before her could only dream of so she will ask readers to join her in exploring current issues from lived experiences of the past, reviewing and linking those experiences for similarities, reflection, and a broader perspective.





Tommy Green
Facebook Blogger
Former Editor for
the Mobile Beacon

Black People Don't Know History

Brothers and Sisters, I am praying & hoping that we learn something from the 2024 election. I know that other disenfranchised groups voted for #47, but when Black men, and especially Black women wouldn't vote for Vice Pres. Kamala Harris (Black woman), there are issues that are affecting USES from our past that will hinder Black people from gaining freedom, justice, and equality. The history of the slave quarters has been passed down through succeeding generations. The trauma is still with us in 2025.

The following incidents occurred: (1) Africans captured and brought to the Americas; (2) They were made slaves for life; (3) Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, and the 13th Amendment stated, "Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation;" (4) After the 1964 Civil Rights Bill, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the 1968 Fair Housing act were passed by the Democratic Party, Southern Democrats left and joined the Republican Party; (5) According to Lee Atwater, Republican political strategist said, "The 'Southern Strategy' was an electoral strategy used to increase political support among white voters in the South by appealing to racism against African Americans. They utilized coded languages to talk disparagingly about Black people in a post-Jim Crow Era," (6) On June 26, 2013, the Supreme Court struck down part of historic voting rights law, which required states with a history of discriminating against Black people had to get pre-clearance from the Department of Justice (DOJ); and (7) After the Supreme Court ruling, there were numerous bills passed across the south, which the voting rights of Black people were reduced.

In 1972, I had a conversation about teaching Black history with a wife-of a military friend. She felt that since we had been desegregated that we didn't need to teach our children about their particular history in America. I believe vehemently that she was wrong, because the rights that we have gained weren't from the goodness of white people. Black people used their blood, sweat, and tears to gain crumbs that fell from the oppressor's kitchen table. In 2025, the descendants of enslaved Africans and the descendants of the slave masters have the same beliefs about America. This is because the Black community has allowed the descendants of the slave masters to teach history to their children. White people taught history that allowed them to maintain their dominate power in society.

During slavery, the slave masters taught Blacks a form of Christianity, which validated the whites and devalued Blacks. In 2025, Blacks are still practicing that same form of Christianity. Deceased Dr. Cain Hope Felder, "Troubling Biblical Waters" and James H. Cone, "The Cross and the Lynching Tree," provides a different perspective. "BLACK PEOPLE STILL MATTER!"

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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PORTRAITS in BLACK



Julius Harris

...born in Philadelphia, PA. in 1923, Harris has appeared in more than 70 movies and TV shows over his 40 year career. Mostly known for his films during the 70's, known as the Blaxploitation era, he appeared in the films *Super Fly*, *Hell Up in Harlem*, *Black Caesar*, *Trouble Man*, *Let's Do It Again*, and *Live and Let Die*, he led an interesting life and career.

His father was a musician and his mom worked as a dancer. Harris worked as a nurse, and as a bouncer in New York City. He joined the army as a medic during World War II before beginning his acting career. On a dare, he auditioned for his first role in the movie *Nothing But a Man* featuring Ivan Dixon (of *Logan's Heroes*) and Jazz Vocalist Abbey Lincoln. His TV career included roles in *The Bob Newhart Show*, *Cannon*, *Kojak*, *Good Times*, *Sanford and Son*, *Carney* and *Lacey*, *Benson*, *The Jeffersons*, and his last role in 1997 in *ER*. Harris also was a member of the Negro Ensemble Company in New York and appeared on Broadway.

For many, his most famous role was in the 1972 classic Gordon Parks film, *Super Fly* with Ron O'Neal. Even Harris said, "Even today, if I am walking in a Black neighborhood, people call me by my *Super Fly* name, Scatter". One of his favorite roles was playing Ugandan President Idi Amin in the TV movie, *Victory at Entebbe*. Harris died from heart failure in October, 2004 while in the hospital in Los Angeles at the age of 81. He was cremated and interred in his native Philadelphia. Upon his death, actress Halle Berry said, "His work helped African Americans break out of stereotypical movie roles and move to more dynamic heroes and fully realized human beings"♣



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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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Your Money Speaks Louder Than Your Voice

African-American spending power is documented at \$1.8 trillion and projected to grow to \$2.1 trillion in 2026 by several sources including the Federal Reserve, Nielsen and Forbes. While 48.3 million identified themselves as Black/African-American in 2023. The McKinsey Institute for Black Economic Mobility and the McKinsey Global Institute documents in "The Economic State of Black America: What Is and What Could Be" (June 2021), an interesting perspective: "...estimate a \$220 billion annual disparity between Black wages today and what they would be in a scenario of full parity...". With parity this study estimates that employment would increase by an additional one million Black Workers. In addition, with parity African-American businesses would generate \$1.6 trillion more than they did in 2021. This is why parity is being targeted with such fury. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in theory would have achieved better results, if they did not water it down. There were some gains in employment and contracted businesses but the system ensured White Females benefited greatly. Yet the fact that People of Color were gaining in population numbers and a younger population frighten the main stream.

Around 2010, while attending a conference, I heard a comment from elder White Executives that we know all to well: "If we become the minority, will they treat us, like we treated them". Hence the fervor behind MAGA.

While the McKinsey Quarterly article, "A \$300 billion opportunity: Serving the Emerging Black American Consumer (August, 2021) highlights marketing opportunities for the growing dissatisfaction with products and services, younger age medians than white population and underserve areas. It is not a secret that African-Americans are dissatisfied with many products, services and experiences. The above article highlights the dissatisfaction and that we are willing to pay 1.2 times more to enhance our experiences. Our brand loyalty should not be blind but strategic. We must no longer shop for pleasure but seek companies that will enhance our future: better experiences, viable donations to causes and nonprofits that positively impacts the Village.

Be mindful: Your money speaks louder than your voice. Your vote is the exclamation point!!!

As Always Let's Be Greater! ♣

Gulf Coast
Ethnic &
Heritage



JAZZ Festival

featuring
Tonya Boyd Cannon
of **\$25**
THE VOICE

WITH KEEP IT LIVE
ROMAN STREET 6:30
A TRIBUTE TO QUINCY JONES BY
MOBILE BIG BAND 7:30

JULY 26, 2025 8:30 PM

THE TEMPLE DOWNTON 351 ST FRANCIS STREET 36602

7/24 AN EVENING OF POETRY \$10

7/25 HOSEA LONDON JAZZ MUSIC AND
EDUCATION GALA @ THE TEMPLE \$35

7/27 JAZZ BRUNCH @ KAZOOLA'S





BLACK LIVES MATTER
Tommy Green
Facebook Blogger
Former Editor for
the Mobile Beacon

Information To Contact Leadership-6

Yours Truly,

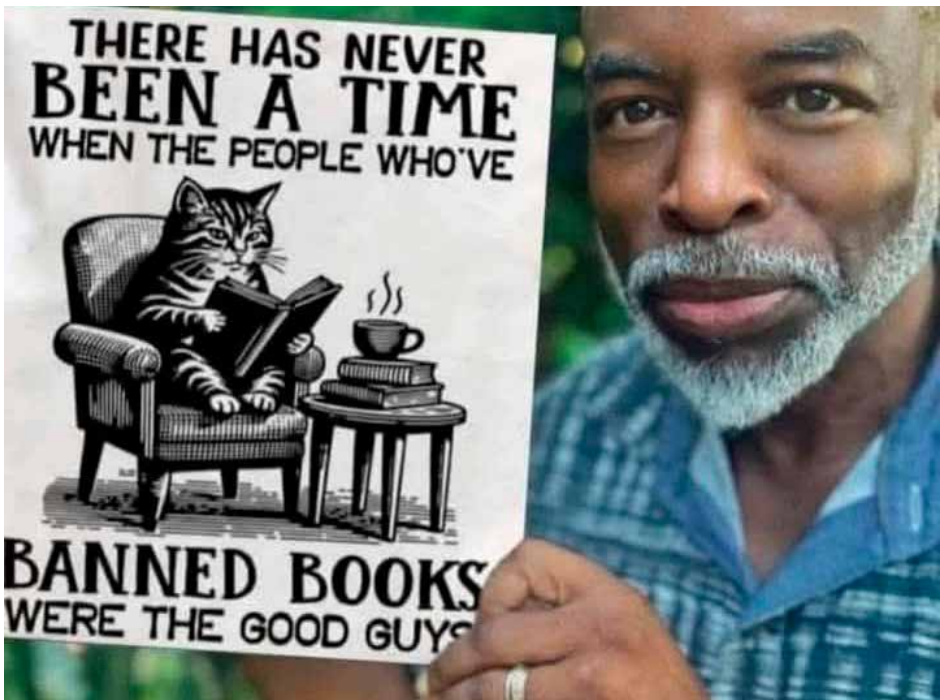
On March 24, 2025, Wired News reported, “Trump Officials in Signal Fiasco Attended Secret Mar-a-Lago Dinner Shortly After Celebrating Bombing. The officials accidentally invited the editor in chief of The Atlantic to their Signal group chat. Hours after bombs dropped on Yemen, they partied at a \$1-million-per-seat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

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

You can type in the following information to contact an individual:
(1) The Pres. & Vice Pres. go to Whitehouse.gov;

(2) Type republicans senator last name.senate.gov. Because they control all levers of power in Wash, DC. If you aren’t able to make contact, you should type www.US Senators

(3) Scroll down on left to Contacting U.S. Senators and choose a state or name. There will be information on email, address, and phone number for your senator.♣







HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Collection Event

RESCHEDULED TO
APRIL 26, 2025 | 9AM-1PM
Seals Park, 540 Texas St. Mobile, AL

ACCEPTED ITEMS

- Automotive Fluids
- Aerosols
- Herbicides & Fertilizers
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Paint
- Cleaners
- Pesticides
- Batteries

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Mark Your Calendar!

APRIL 2025

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Cardinal Extravaganza Crawfish Boil and Fish Fry • SPX Parish Mobile
03/07 @6:00pm

Leaders Leading the Way for Kingdom Advancement

by Goodwill Church Ministries International – Hosted by
Jeffrey Thrash featuring Jazz Artist Ben Tankard, Dr. LaTisha McCain,
Bishop Levy Knox, Prophetess Sandra Thrash, Minister Spencer
Ruggs, Minister Rose Shaw – Mobile Convention Center,
04/04-05 @6pm

Easter Egg Hunt @Knollwood Church, 04/13 @10:30am

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 @6:00pm

New To Medicare Free Monthly Educational Seminar

Area Agency on Aging, GM&O Building 1st Floor Conference Rm
1st Tuesday Monthly

AARP Tax Prep • Ben May Library, Every Wednesday & Friday
02/05 - 04/11 @10am-2:00pm

Growth Alliance Task Force Meeting • Mobile Chamber; Conference
Room; 1st Tuesday Monthly @Noon

18th Annual Wilmer Hall Pancake Breakfast • 04/05 @7am

Spring Fling & Splash • Municipal Park-Semmes, 04/12 @10am

The Market at The Pillars • 04/13 @ Noon

Food Truck Fundraiser • Causey Middle School, 04/15 @ 5 pm



MCPSS Career Fair, Mobile Convention Center, 04/30

Kites Over Mobile • USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, 04/19-20

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event • Seals Park, 04/26 @9am

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

Chicago • Beau Rivage Theatre-Biloxi, 04/04-05 @8pm

Victor Wooten • Iron City-Birmingham, 04/04

Ben Tankard • Mobile Convention Center, 04/04 @7pm

Cece Winans • Olive Baptist Church-Pensacola, 04/05

Paul Simon • Saenger New Orleans, 04/05

Trey Songz, Omarion, Bow Wow, Boogie Badazz, Rick Ross, Plies, RSVP,

Ying Yang, Twins, Nivea, Ray J, Sammie, Bobby V, Pleasure P

BJCC Legacy Arena-Birmingham, 04/05

Three Dog Night • Alabama Theatre-Birmingham, 04/05

Leonid & Friends • Saenger-Pensacola, 04/09

Afroman • The Merry Widow, 04/10 @8pm

Dru Hill • Beau Rivage Theatre-Biloxi, 04/11

Styx • IP Casino Resort & Spa, 04/11 @8pm

Arnez J, Guy Torry • BJCC Concert Hall-Birmingham, 04/11

Kem • Wind Creek Casino-Atmore, 04/12

The Platters • The Drifters, The Coasters, Alabama Theatre
Birmingham, 04/12

Willie Nelson • Tami Neilson, The Sound Amphitheater-Gautier
04/15 @7pm

Jeezy, Sean Kingston, Waka Flocka Flame, Juvenile • The Sound
Amphitheater-Gautier, 04/19 @7pm

Esperanza Spalding • Orpheum Theater-New Orleans, 04/24

St. Paul & The Broken Bones • Soul Kitchen Music Hall, 04/25 @8pm

Charlie Wilson • Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 04/26 @8pm

George Clinton • Saturn-Birmingham, 04/26

Handel's Messiah • Mobile Symphony – Saenger Theatre, 04/26-27

Bret Michaels • Mississippi Coast Coliseum-Biloxi, 04/27

FAMILY SHOWS

Sesame Street Live! Say Hello • Saenger Theatre, 04/02 @60 pm

Easter in Wonderland • Exploreum, 04/05 @9:30am

Spring Egg Hunt • Dotch Community Center, 04/12 @10am

Exploreum After Hours • The Matrix, 04/12 @6pm

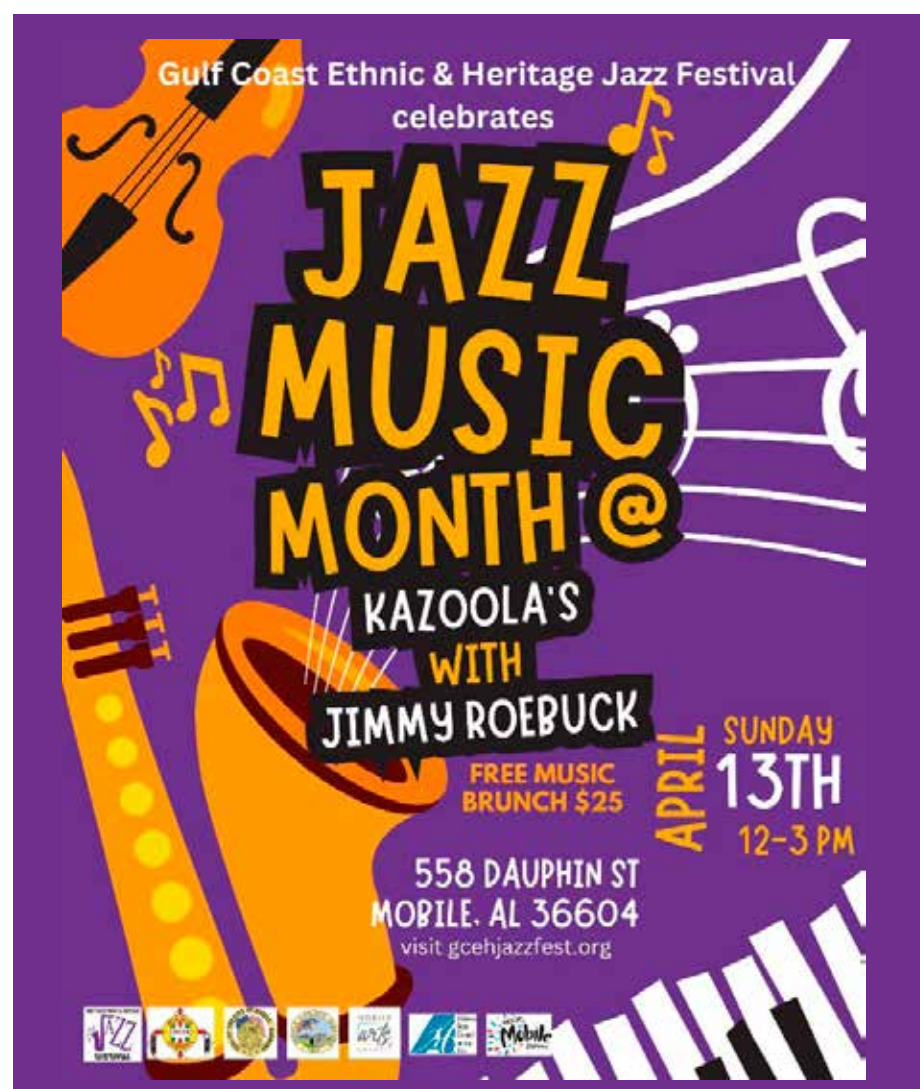
Coastie The Safety Boat • Exploreum, 04/19 @11am

FESTIVALS

French Quarter Festival • New Orleans, 04/10

Baldwin County Strawberry Festival • Municipal Park-Loxley,
04/12 @9am

New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival • Fair Grounds & Race Course
04/24-05/04



PASSINGS



George Foreman•76

**BOXER/BUSINESSMAN
OLYMPIC CHAMPION**



Jerry "Ice Man" Butler•85

SINGER
For Your Precious Love
Ain't Understanding Mellow
Parkinson's Disease Complications



Angie Stone•63

SINGER
No More Rain
Traffic Accident



ROY AYERS • 84
MUSICIAN
Everybody Loves the Sunshine
Illness



ULYSSES LEE "JUNIOR" BRIDGEMAN, 71
NBA PLAYER/BUSINESS MAN
Milwaukee Bucks/Wendy's; Jet; Ebony
Heart Attack



HARRY ELSTON, 86
MUSICIAN
Friends of Distinction
Grazing in the Grass
Going in Circles



ROBERTA FLACK, 88
SINGER
Killing Me Softly
Feel Like Makin Love
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis



IRV GOTTI, 54
RECORD PRODUCER
Multiple Strokes



GENE HACKMAN, 95
ACTOR
Unforgiven; Mississippi Burning
The French Connection
Heart Disease



CHRIS JASPER, 73
SINGER/SONGWRITER
KEYBOARDIST
The Isley Brothers
Cancer



ALBERT "JUNIOR" LOWE, 84
SONGWRITER
(Percy Sledge; Aretha Franklin)
Muscle Shoals Musician
Stroke Complications



GWEN MCCRAE, 81
SINGER
Rockin' Chair
Long Illness



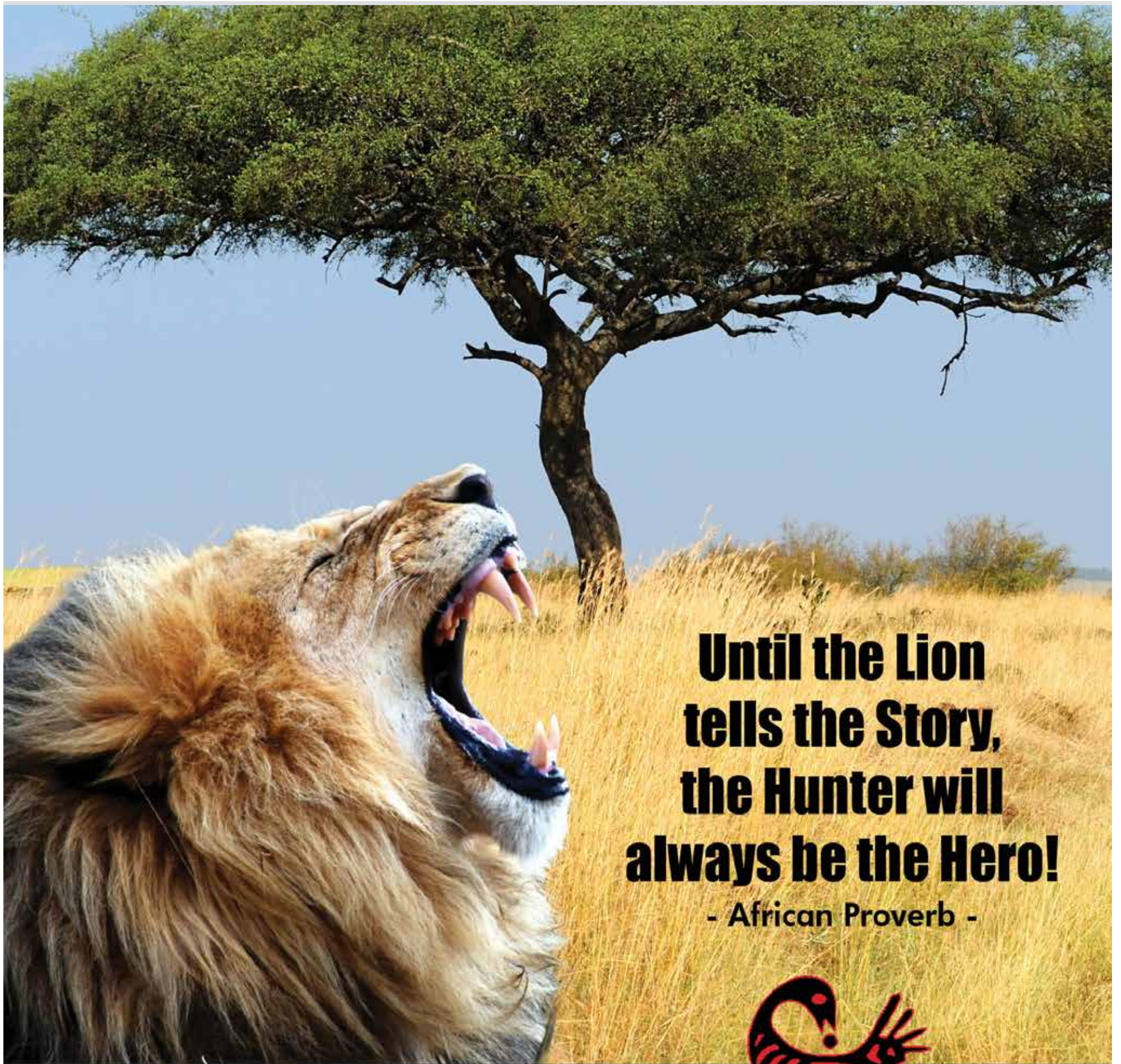
SLICK WATTS, 73
NBA PLAYER
Supersonics, New Orleans Jazz,
Xavier-New Orleans
Sarcoidosis



DWAYNE WIGGINS, 64
MUSICIAN
Tony! Toni! Toné!
Bladder Cancer



HARRY WILLIAMS, 80
SINGER
Bloodstone
Natural High, Outside Woman
Heart Attack



**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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