

# Steppin' ut *News!*

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

**VOLUME 26**  
ISSUE 01

**ARTS • CULTURE • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY**

**AUGUST**  
2025



## Get to Know Bishop State





## ABOUT STEPPIN' OUT

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

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

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

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

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Featured Column

**LIVING IN BLISS**



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Featured Column

**MASSAGE: THE DESSERT  
IN HEALTHCARE**



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**BLACK LIVES MATTER**



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**THINKING OUTSIDE  
OF THE BOX**



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**VIEWPOINT**



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**BLACK AMERICAN  
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**LISA JOHNSON**

Featured Column

**EXPRESSIONS:  
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**NATHANIEL PATTERSON**

Featured Column

**CONNECT TO SUCCESS**



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**CREOLE HISTORY  
HIGHLIGHTS**



**MEMPHIS VAUGHAN JR**

Featured Column

**TAKING MOBILE  
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

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MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER...

Kedu (How Are You?)  
Steppin' Out Readers;

May Our Lord and Savior continue to Bless You as we continue to navigate this thing called Life.



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

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

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

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

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

GREG CYPRIAN  
Publisher/Editor  
STEPPIN' OUT NEWS



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The NEXT ISSUE of  
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Will Drop...

SEPTEMBER 2025







## Taking Mobile to the Next Level Memphis Vaughan Jr.

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The return of Amtrak to Mobile has generated a lot of discussion, anticipation, and feedback. As an avid traveler, I anxiously await the Amtrak Mardi Gras Service from Mobile to New Orleans, with stops at cities along the Mississippi Coast. For those who have never taken a train ride, I strongly encourage you to do so. While it won't be as scenic a trip as the routes that cross the Rockies or travel along the California coast, I think it will still be a nice way to get away from the city without having to drive. It took many years for the return of the train to Mobile after the disruption of service following Hurricane Katrina. The fact that it took this long to restore service is troubling and highlights the state of rail travel in the United States. The U.S. is far behind other parts of the world in offering rail service, and it remains to be seen if we will ever have anything remotely close to Europe, Japan, or China in my lifetime. Even countries in Africa—such as Morocco, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Africa—are making strides to upgrade their existing rail systems and move forward with high-speed rail.

I can't understand why this country is so resistant to establishing high-speed rail. I realize most people prefer flying or driving, but the train could be a viable option. Air travel has become the equivalent of riding a Greyhound bus in the sky—too many instances of airlines trying to squeeze as many people on board as possible, unless you're willing to pay a premium to sit in business class. Cities the size of Mobile face challenges in having adequate service to other cities as well as competitive pricing. Auto travel, which I do a lot of, has its challenges too, with highways becoming more clogged every year. Having decent rail service across the nation would help take some cars off the road and reduce the amount of money spent on upgrading and building more freeways.

So, I urge you to support the Amtrak route from Mobile to New Orleans. No, it won't be faster than driving, but it will save you from driving headaches like congestion, fatigue, and the stress of finding parking at your destination. The relaxation you gain by letting someone else do the driving is well worth the trip. Give it a try—you might be surprised.♣



## Truth, Facts & Justice

### Sabrina Mass

RETIRED NURSE • CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

## COLORED

As another JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY has passed us by once again there are still significant aspects of racism and a racist society in AMERICA. We as a culture continue to be looked upon as second or maybe even 3rd class citizens of AMERICA. This land, if it is called free, is still not completely FREE in many aspects, as I as a proud biracial from many generations in my blood line, we are a proud people. I am very disturbed by the President Trump of these United States of America in how he has now shifted to targeting the Mexican population of America, as a Texan that grew up around Mexicans and also with the culture in my family it is appalling to say the least. SO has the shift changed from targeting from the BLACK SKIN to the BROWN SKIN it is such a shame and so tragic. As a culture of a black society that has experienced the rags of racism, we should feel great empathy for the Mexican culture, they are US. I often see the word COLORED on social media still being used when targeting a black person or persons being used in a derogatory manner to belittle the black culture. So ask yourself have we gained or are we still losing? AMERICA has never been great for our people, AMERICA has much sinful blood on its soil, AMERICA is not the beacon of light it has always portrayed or displayed, you may ask yourself AM I proud to be an AMERICAN, my answer is sometimes YES, often times, NO. I am ashamed of how AMERICA and its continuation of racism will not cease. I also say this not all that say they love AMERICA the land of much hate and division, I call them hypocrites and deceivers, not only to AMERICA, but to themselves. My parents always told me if you cannot be TRUE to SELF then consider yourself a LIAR. I have a great sense of discernment internally and much too often I discern so many people in our in culture that LIE to others as well as to themselves. What is Color, what is TRUTH, only ones self can seek thine own heart. Truth tellers have no filter, have no concern on how society views them, as long as internally WE know our TRUTH is TRUTH. So ask yourself, what are your TRUE COLORS INTERNALLY. PEACE...♣

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## COVER STORY



# Bishop State is for EVERYBODY!

Since Olivier Charles took over as president of Bishop State Community College in 2022, the school is on the move, thanks to an ambitious expansion of its technical programs.

Steppin' Out News recently talked to Charles, who said the school's technical programs have grown by leaps and bounds, offering a variety of programs for students on all four campuses. He has a message for citizens of Mobile and potential students when it comes to Bishop State.

"There's two things," he said. "One, I'm a product of this community, and I'm proud of that. I grew up in the Campground. For me, this work is personal; it's making sure that people from Mobile, whether they're 18-years-old or 68-years-old, have the opportunities to be successful.

"I also want people to know that Bishop State is for anybody and everybody. We are open door; meaning that you don't have to take the ACT, you don't have to take any standardized test. You can walk in our doors and say, 'I want to do something different and I want to do something better. Anyone who walks through our doors, our answer is going to be yes. Anybody who thought that higher education was not within their reach, it's now accessible.

"What makes Bishop State special is not the buildings, it's not the programs, it's the people who work here, and I've learned that in my almost three years here. We have an amazing faculty and staff who come here to work every day and give everything they have, to help someone else reach their goals. Nothing makes us happier than watching a student complete their goal or cross that finish line, whatever that looks like for them."

"The best day on this campus, if you ask any of our folks and you ask them what is the President's favorite thing, is graduation. Nothing makes me happier than watching graduation. The whole reason for us being here is to see our students cross that finish line, and when they celebrate, we celebrate too. That's the most heartwarming thing we can do for our folks, so we love that. We love helping people."

Over the years, Bishop State has had an increase in its technical program, which has helped the school prepare students for the working world. "We're very proud of the fact that we offer over 40 technical programs," Charles said. "They range from some of them being in-person to some of them being taught online, and some of them being hybrid, meaning a student comes here a few days and they do the rest of the work online.

"We even have programs that are offered on a weekend basis where students come in on a weekend basis or on a nightly basis for some of our students who have jobs and other commitments. One of the things that has grown a lot, especially in the last year, are in our technical offerings and trades. Those offerings are apprenticeships. Apprenticeships are the new wave of technical education. It allows students to come to class two or three days week and they work in industry the rest of the day, so they literally get to apply what they learn. We're proud of our technical programs, because every single one of them have grown."

Charles said one example of growth is in the school's truck driving program. "Bishop State has the largest truck driving program in the state of Alabama," he said. "We have 23 trucks and graduate 350 students a year, and we have a 98 percent job placement rate. We're pretty excited about that, because CDL drivers were the number one in-demand job in Alabama. COVID taught us how much we need those programs."

There are other technical programs, such as advanced manufacturing, as well as a process tech program. There is also a echatronics program, which is almost like a mechanical engineering with more applied for the students that need it. Bishop State has one of the top machining programs in the state, which is housed in the school's recently built 80,000 square-foot Gene Haas Center for Advanced Manufacturing Technology.

How all this came into being took a lot of hard work from a staff dedicated to recruiting qualified faculty, not to mention a growth in enrollment thanks in part to the Mobile County Public School System.

Continued on Page 08... see **BISHOP**





## A LETTER from MOBILE AREA MARDI GRAS ASSOCIATION to the CITIZENS of MOBILE

GREETINGS,

I am writing on behalf of the Mobile Area Mardi Gras Association (MAMGA) to address recent discussions and reports concerning the negotiation and potential repurposing of the property adjacent to the Dearborn YMCA.

As an organization that takes immense pride in both its representation and contributions to the Mobile community, it is imperative for us to clarify the facts regarding the processes and parties involved in the finalization of arrangements for this property purchase.

From the very beginning of the property acquisition process, members of the MAMGA Legacy Foundation have been in direct correspondence and active engagement with City of Mobile administrative officials, including the esteemed City Attorney, Mr. Ricardo Woods. Throughout various formal meetings and exchanges, the only participants involved in the negotiation discussions were the leaders of the MAMGA Legacy Foundation and Mr. Woods himself. These interactions have been characterized by transparency and a commitment to serving the community's best interests.

Contrary to some recent reports, any suggestions or insinuations that City Councilman William Carroll was involved in these negotiations are categorically incorrect. While we wholeheartedly appreciate and acknowledge the significant contributions and achievements of Councilman Carroll in District 2, it is necessary to correct the record to prevent any misunderstanding of the stakeholders in this matter.

Within the forementioned corresponding meetings, the MAMGA Legacy Foundation has made attempts to reach out to the YMCA Director, but to those attempts made, there was no desire expressed by the YMCA to meet with the goal of collaborating for an amicable agreement. Furthermore, we respectfully note that a statement made by City Communications Director Mr. J. Johnson regarding the involvement of Councilman Carroll contains a slight inaccuracy.

As an organization deeply rooted in community values and integrity, MAMGA is dedicated to ensuring that all communications surrounding such important transactions are accurate and truthful. We remain committed to working collaboratively with the City and all relevant parties to enhance and support the neighborhoods we serve.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to continued positive engagement with the Mobile community.

Warm Regards,

Isadore B Sims II  
President, Mobile Area Mardi Gras Association

Maynard V. Odom  
President, MAMGA Legacy Foundation

## Ingram Announces For District 2

Dr. Samantha Ingram, a proud Mobile native, former education administrator, business owner, and lifelong public servant, has officially announced her candidacy for Mobile City Council, District 2. "I have always believed that when we come together with a shared purpose, we can achieve greater things," said Ingram. "For the past 30 years, I've poured my heart into public education...working to improve schools here in Mobile and across the country. I've managed multi-million dollar budgets, empowered leaders, and focused on building stronger, more connected communities."

Ingram's extensive experience in governance and fiscal accountability includes serving as Deputy Superintendent for Mobile County Public Schools and as Chief of the Center for Instructional Leadership and Development with the United States Department of Defense.

"I'm running for City Council because I want every resident, no matter their zip code, to have access to affordable housing, youth opportunities, safe neighborhoods, and inclusive economic growth," said Ingram.

"District 2 deserves responsive leadership and real solutions. Together, we can make District 2 better."

###

**AUGUST 26, 2025**

**VOTE**

**DR. SAMANTHA INGRAM**

**MOBILE CITY COUNCIL**  
**DISTRICT TWO**

LET'S BUILD A SAFER, STRONGER, MORE VIBRANT  
DISTRICT TWO - TOGETHER!

For more, visit [ingramfordistrict2.com](https://www.ingramfordistrict2.com)

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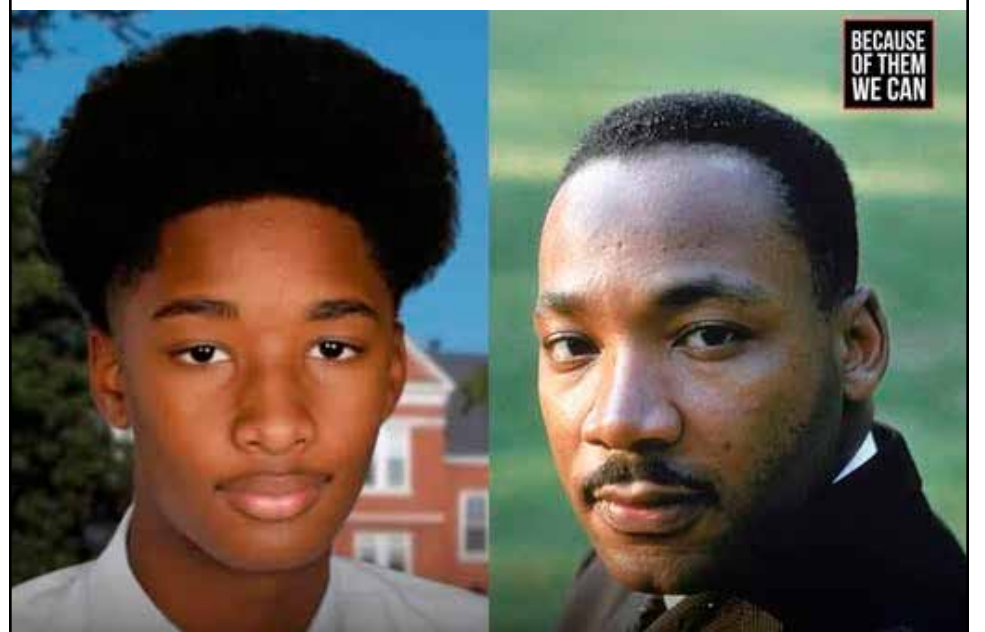
**BLACK FARMER FUND HAS RAISED \$20 MILLION IN CAPITAL FOR ITS SECOND FUND TO ENHANCE THE BLACK FOOD SYSTEM.**



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## Black People Don't Know History

**Tommy Green**

Facebook and Steppin' Out Blogger  
Former Editor: Mobile Beacon



Brothers and Sisters who voted for #47 and the ones who didn't vote are responsible for Black people suffering in America and Africa in 2025 and the future.

On April 29, 2025, Gerren Keith Gaynor, The Griot wrote, "Black Americans have suffered the most during Trump's first 100 days in office, say critics. The Trump administration has implemented the following actions:

1. Trump signed an executive order ending diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs;
2. The administration has also eliminated or defanged offices and programs intended to address historical inequities impacting Black and Brown communities;
3. The Office of Civil Rights within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which was tasked with addressing environmental injustices;
4. The Minority Business Development Agency, which provided capital and other resources to Black and minority-owned businesses;
5. "Black Americans are definitely suffering the weight of the first 100 days... because of some of the places that got hit the hardest, whether it was the Department of Education or the Department of Health and Human Services," said Democratic strategist Ameshia Cross;
6. Black Americans also stand to grow sicker as his administration has become increasingly hostile toward public health interventions like vaccines and medical research, led by anti-vaccine Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.;
7. Black people will bear the brunt of a lot of the sicknesses and illnesses, in addition to getting rid of very necessary research on things like various cancers that affect Black people at younger ages;
8. There will be "downstream effect" to Trump's cuts in the name of DEI, noting that it pushed many K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and businesses to "reduce" diversity efforts, particularly in hiring. Trump's anti-DEI agenda has "reverberated" throughout the country, resulting in the "demonizing" of Black and brown people and false narratives that they are "talentless" or "lack abilities;"
9. Others include efforts to challenge an executive order on voting rights and the administration's attempt to shut down the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which protects consumers in the financial markets from banking services to debt collection; and
10. Trump's policies have resulted in Black federal workers disproportionately being fired or laid off from their jobs," according to Gaynor.

When I joined the U.S. Navy 1962, this was my path to moving into middle class. I will wager that the majority of African American's progress was made possible through the military and federal jobs. Black people are 13% of the American population, but they are 18% of the United Post Office's employees. In the 1970s and 1980s, the federal government became the most hated employer in America, after Black people made progress in the 1950s and 1960s.♣

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**BISHOP...** continued from Page 05



"Recruiting technical faculty is one of the most difficult things in education right now, just because they make so much money out there in industry," said Charles. "Our instructional and academic folks have done a really great job in recruiting the right talent to make sure they are here to teach our students. That makes all the difference in the world; having people who are committed to the art and science of teaching, people who want to see students win.

"To be honest, we recruit our faculty because we know if we just put a job advertisement out there, it probably won't have the reach that we want to. We've been fortunate we've had some enrollment growth and to be honest, none of our growth is possible without our most important partners — the Mobile County Public School System. We make sure we have relationships with every single school on an individual level, and to me that's the most important thing we do. We approach things on a school-by-school basis rather than this broad sword, and that's what a community college should do — take care of our community in a way they can reach out to us."

Because of the partnership with MCPSS, as well as private schools, Bishop State has seen growth in enrollment. Last fall, the college passed 4,000 students on all four campuses combined, and Charles said he hopes enrollment can surpass 4,300 this fall. "Last fall, when we surpassed 4,000 students, it was our largest enrollment class in 18 years," he said. "I'm really proud of that, because we grew 100 percent in three years. Our enrollment was a little bit north of 2,000 when our administration got here. The work that has been done has been great, but I also realize the shoulders that we stand on.

"Dr. Reginald Sykes (former president), who is a good friend of mine, has lived in Mobile for years, and he and I keep in contact. I still call him for advice on a lot of things. I'm grateful to the people who led Bishop State prior to us, because without them there is no way we would be successful. We lean on them to help us."

Beyond that, a \$25 million renovation of the Delchamps Theatre at its Broad Street Campus is planned, and Charles said he hopes to get that project finalized. "I'm excited about that project," he said. I love that building, but it's time for a refresh. I think what makes a community college strong is when the community knows it has access to it. If there is an opportunity to host a community event on our campus, and if it makes sense and ties to our mission, we're not going to say no. I think that's what makes us strong when we open our doors literally and figuratively, so they can see our resources.

Bishop State will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2027, and Charles is excited about the school reaching a monumental milestone. "We're very excited to celebrate our centennial," he said. "I tell folks that in my career, I've worked in a few places, but I've never been involved in a centennial celebration. We're still developing what we're going to do, but it's going to be big. We're pretty excited about that; we just hired a new Dean of Advancement & Community Affairs to really build that celebration.

"We're going to celebrate for an entire year because this place is special and what it means to this community is something that we don't take for granted. I've met so many people who said that their mom and dad met here, and they wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Bishop State. We want to make sure we celebrate those legacies accurately, and we're going to make that centennial something the city remembers."♣



**Arthur L. Mack**  
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# ENOUGH WITH THE VIOLENCE ALREADY!

As of this writing, there have been at least nine acts of violence in Mobile County. Many of you, including myself, are getting sick and tired of it. The year is barely half over, and this city is beginning to look more and more like the Wild West. One good thing has come out of this — more people, including community activists, politicians, and law enforcement officials — are speaking out, and for better or worse, the outbreak of violence is getting some attention.

The June 01 shooting inside the Saenger Theater during, of all things... a dance recital, was surely a wake-up call. That shooting, stemming what some called a domestic dispute, left one man dead and a woman (who had nothing to do with the dispute) injured. Three days later, there was a shooting at the St. Stephens Woods Apartment Complex that left a two-year old wounded, and that same day, there was a shooting in Semmes which left one woman wounded. Then, a few days after that, a deadly shooting in the Down the Bay community left two people dead. What made it even more tragic was one young man allegedly shot his mother to death, and he in turn was killed by his brother. Then, there were two shootings in Prichard resulting in fatalities, followed by a stabbing at an apartment complex near the University of South Alabama campus which left a USA student dead and her mother injured. Those incidents are part of a bigger problem... people are just plain mean and not using their heads when it comes to dealing with problems. Without looking at the big picture, people are acting out of emotion instead of either talking things out or letting a bad situation cool down. It even results in numerous incidents of finger-pointing.

In the case of the Saenger shooting, it was a situation that was totally unnecessary. An apparent domestic situation spiraled out of control and put numerous lives, particularly the young dancers, at risk. No wonder there were some recital participants who were so traumatized, they said they didn't want to dance again. The situation was so emotionally charged, Mobile City Council President CJ Small said 'the state failed us', referring to the Alabama Legislature voting to remove requirements to apply for gun permits. "So, if you've got two people out there arguing, and one feels threatened, he is going to pull out his gun and shoot him. It's nobody's fault but the State," Small said. "The State has failed the citizens of Alabama; the State has failed the citizens of Mobile."

Small's comments caused many to say the blame didn't fall on the state, but on the alleged gunman. Not long after that, Mobile County Sheriff Paul Burch commented about the shooting of the 2-year-old in Prichard. According to various reports, the 2-year-old's teenage brother was the intended victim, and the shooting itself appeared to be gang related. It was then Burch said during a press conference after the shooting, "It's gangs and frankly, I wish we could put them all in an arena and let them kill the hell out of each other, because that would solve the problem. But it's always innocent people who get shot." That prompted a rebuttal from Prichard Mayor Jimmie Gardner, who said while he was thankful for the Mobile County Sheriff's Office's help with combating crime

in Prichard, there should have been a different approach instead of using sensationalism and talking the community down.

Meanwhile, some public figures and activists took it upon themselves to initiate action. Said Mobile City Councilman Cory Penn during the June 3 city council meeting: "As adults, we're divided. The kids are coming together to do some positive things, but when they're doing a good job, others are saying 'they're not doing nothing.' We had a public safety meeting and people were saying we were just talking, but on that Saturday in Trinity Gardens there was a 'One Love' block party that was planned by teens, but there was no media there." In short, Penn encouraging the media to be more involved in promoting anti-violence initiatives and urging people to come together. At the June 10 city council meeting, well-known activist and DJ Rodney "DJ Rodski" Toomer took it a bit further—he offered actual solutions to reducing gun violence. "It's enough fault to go around for everybody," Toomer said. "We feel as though we know more than young people, especially if you have a doctor's or master's degree. But there's no greater knowledge than experience. No matter how many town hall meetings you have or community meetings you have, there's no way possible to understand the root of the problem until you have the problem addressed at the table." Toomer said not enough safe spaces after school, unspoken trauma and mental health struggles, not enough job opportunities, mistrust between youth and police, and lack of positive role models were factors when it came to gun violence. "Too many kids have nowhere to go after school," he said. "Many young people are carrying pain they never talk about. I hear it in their stories and see it in their eyes at my events. I meet talented kids who want to work, but don't know where to start. Some make bad choices just to get by. "Many young people tell me they are scared of the police; that mistrust keeps them from asking for help when they need it most. Kids also need to see people who look like them succeeding. When I DJ at schools, I see how much it means for them to hear my story."

Toomer suggested opening more after-school programs and keeping community centers open late, as well as needing more counselors in schools and safe spaces for kids to talk. He also said that teachers, coaches, even DJs such as himself should be trained to spot the signs and help.

The city could partner with local businesses, radio stations, and community leaders to create summer jobs, internships, and hands-on training. Real relationships should be developed between law enforcement and youth where events could be held to connect through music, sports, and honest conversation. In addition, mentorship programs could be supported, along with bringing more Black professionals, artists, and leaders into schools and community events. Toomer seems to be on the right track, and frankly, we should heed his advice. It's going to take a massive effort from all stakeholders to come up with ideas to discourage young people—and older people as well — from being involved in destructive behavior. It's all hands on deck, folks.♣



# in the NEWS!

NATIONAL • STATE • LOCAL



Angelique Kidjo has become the first Black African honored on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The West African singer is a Grammy-winning artist from Benin...A documentary on the legendary Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall is set to premier this fall. Marshall was the first African American justice to take the bench in 1967...The remains of 19 Black Americans used for research in 1872 have been returned to New Orleans where they will be honored in a memorial service. The individuals died at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and were sent to Leipzig University at the time that it was a common and deeply racist practice that was driven by the false belief that Black people had smaller brains and were intellectual inferior...The former Louisville police officer who killed Breona Taylor, a 26 year old Black woman, was sentenced to 33 months in prison. Federal prosecutors requested a one-day sentence...Many Black Americans are boycotting big-box retail stores that rolled back DEI programs and instead are shopping at small and minority owned businesses that believe value their dollars more. The boycott has become a movement across social media and within neighborhoods nationwide with the shared goal of rejecting systems that do not value the African American community...The National Urban League has declared a "state of emergency" over civil rights policies in response to the Trump administration. They have accused the federal government of being increasingly determined to sacrifice its founding principles and threatening to impose a uniform education system and a homogenous workforce that sidelines anyone who doesn't fit a narrow, exclusionary mold...

The Trump administration has released more than 240,000 pages of records of the FBI's surveillance of Martin Luther King Jr. that have been sealed since 1977 despite the protest of the King family... Under pressure from the Trump administration, the National Park Service removed historical signage that explained the role women played in the creation of the Muir Woods National Monument and highlighted the racist ideologies of some of the men associated with the site. Those now highlighted include a former congressman who laid the groundwork for Japanese mass internment during World War II and a EU genocide who believed the human race could be improved by "selective breeding"...The administration is exempting dozens of chemical manufacturers, oil refineries, coal plants, medical device sterilizer and other polluters from Clean Air Act rules. More than 100 plants have been exempted from pollution limits established by the Biden Administration...Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been granted access to the personal data of 79 million Medicaid users, including home addresses and ethnicities, under an agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) signed by the White House...The White House has defunded Autism research after Secretary of Health, Robert F. Kennedy, had vowed to address rising U.S. Autism rates as a top health priority for the Trump Administration. In some cases, projects were cancelled because they involved diverse populations...The Department of Justice (DOJ) has "reevaluated" A Transportation Department program that has carved out an estimated 37 billion for minority and women owned businesses that they say violates the equal protection clause of the Constitution...

The Department of Labor has announced it would suspend operations of the Job Corps training program, prompting bipartisan criticism. Said the Labor Department, "This reflects the Administration's commitment to ensure federal workforce investments deliver meaningful results for both students and taxpayers"... Donald Trump has pardoned at least eight individuals convicted on federal drug charges. Legislators are confused and frustrated because of Trump's previous comments on escalating the U.S. drug war against Mexican cartels, but White House spokespeople say Trump is open to seeing if these people are worthy of redemption because the punishment does not always fit the crime...Former President Joe Biden's White House physician Kevin O'Connor appeared before the House Oversight Committee as part of a Republican-led investigation into allegations that Biden's health decline was concealed from the public. He invoked his Fifth Amendment rights declining to answer questions regarding Biden's health and mental fitness while in office. A former aide to Jill Biden did the same...

Alabama has expanded its nationally recognized First Class Pre-K with 58 new classrooms for the 2025-2026 school year. The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education, with that addition, will bring the total number of classrooms for early learning opportunities across the state to 1,528...U.S. Representative Terry Sewell who represents the Alabama Black Belt is upset about a deal for Loundes County, A majority Black County with an estimated 60% to 80% of households in rural parts that do not have a functioning sanitation system, that was put in place after a landmark 2023 civil rights settlement mandating the state resolve the crisis. The Trump Administration terminated the agreement, dismissing it as an "illegal" diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) agreement which means the state is no longer required to resolve the sanitation crisis or conduct public health campaigns...The ACLU of Alabama has asked Alabama lawmakers to improve prison death reporting and transparency. They are asking that lawmakers confront what it describes as a systemic failure in transparency and accountability within the state's prison system...

According to a report from Soliant Health, Augusta Evans School has a playground that was recognized nationally as one of the 10 Best Inclusive School Playgrounds in America. The school provides A quality and individualized education to meet the needs of children with developmental and intellectual disabilities...The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has announced that Steel Pile Load Testing is underway for the Mobile River Bridge Project. The test at two Mobile locations will confirm foundation capacity for the new bridge's pylons...The Mobile County Commission may vote in assuming supervision and administration of the Strickland Youth Center. Those services are currently the responsibility of Juvenile Court Judge Edmond Naman who says the responsibilities should have changed many years ago...Spring Hill College has extended the tenure of current president Dr. Mary Van Brunt, the first female president of the school, for an additional five years...See Ya!

###





## VIEWPOINT Betty Mack Shinn

### We Can Change Mobile

The current mayor of Mobile put his hat in and took it out. By June there were three Black and four White contenders for mayor of Mobile.

As oppressed people, to varying degrees, many are wounded, many mistrust other Blacks. As a result -- enemies have always used the lack of trust to divide and conquer. I was all in for a young man admired for his natural charisma, a son of Mobile who continues to show extraordinary commitment and hope for a better future for Mobile.

All candidates for mayor are Republicans, with one exception. There is no declaration of a political party in City elections. Southern Republicans are especially loyal to the dictates of this party. Mobile, Alabama is no exception.

Donald J. Trump is President and leader of the Republican Party. He is executing Project 2025 with surgical precision. Day one, participants who were tried by a jury, sentenced and serving time for damaging our Capital on J6 -- All are pardoned, and freed as promised. The Big Beautiful Bill passed which will cut Social Security benefits, added requirements for receiving Food Stamps and forget free Healthcare in Alabama. DEI is being dismantled daily. ICE rounds-up Brown people daily. Total and complete disregard of basic humanity and civil rights daily. Who will be next? All three Republican candidates for mayor, [at a Forum at the Via Center] agreed to support the Federal agenda. Just as Republicans do at the State level.

August 26 is an opportunity to take advantage of the hard-fought rights and protections that remain. I don't see it as robbery to give Black leaders an opportunity to lead in Mobile, Alabama, especially when Black candidates hold equal if not greater or awesome credentials for leadership. We have always been held to irrational standards.

### We Can Change Mobile!~

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### HEAT PRECAUTIONS

With heat indices in the triple digits such as those currently being experienced, the Alabama Department of Public Health advises the public to be alert to the warning signs of heat illnesses. Heat-related illnesses occur when the body is exposed to high temperatures. The incidence of these illnesses rises expectedly during warm weather periods, and anyone exposed to high temperatures or extreme heat can experience symptoms when the body's temperature control system is overloaded.

The most common heat-related illnesses ...

#### HEAT CRAMPS • HEAT EXHAUSTION • HEAT STROKE

Heat cramps-- include muscle pains or spasms (abdomen, arms or legs), profuse sweat, and high salt concentration in the sweat. Heat exhaustion is associated with heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, or vomiting and fainting. Other possible symptoms may include cool and moist skin, fast and weak pulse rate, fast and shallow breathing, or irritability. Older adults, those with high blood pressure. And those working or exercising in a hot environment are prone to heat exhaustion. If heat exhaustion is not treated, it may progress to heatstroke.

Heat stroke or sun stroke -- the most serious heat-related illness, a life-threatening problem, may occur when the body is unable to control its temperature. Body temperature may rise to 106 degrees f or higher within 10 -15 minutes. Signs include an extremely high body temperature, red, hot and dry or moist skin, rapid, strong pulse, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, dehydration, combativeness or confusion, and unconsciousness. Heat stroke is a medical emergency and even with immediate treatment, it can be life-threatening or cause serious long-term problems.

Recommendations are that people drink plenty of fluids except alcohol or caffeinated beverages to prevent dehydration, stay in an air-conditioned room, keep out of the sun by seeking shelter, wear a wide-brimmed hat, light-colored and loose-fitting clothing, use sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher, take cool showers or baths, and reduce or eliminate strenuous activities during the hottest times of the day. Never leave people or pets in a parked vehicle.

Individuals with heart disease, diabetes, obesity, poor circulation, or previous stroke problems, people of older and younger ages, and those taking certain medications are at greater risk of becoming ill in hot weather.

Visit <https://www.Alabamapublichealth.Gov/injuryprevention/heat.html> for more information.





## Creole History Highlights

**Tracy Neely**

PRESIDENT: MOBILE CREOLE CULTURAL  
AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Understanding our ancestors' environment and the social demands of their time helps us breathe life into them. They were so much more than census data—they loved, lost, and feared for their families' futures. When we set out to find our ancestors, it takes time to develop the right mindset. Once bitten by the genealogy bug, we must learn a kind of mental time travel. Every time we examine a record, we step outside ourselves and into our ancestor's world, setting aside our modern biases and assumptions. We must imagine what it meant to live without things we now take for granted—radios, refrigerators, even basic medical knowledge. To truly understand our grandparents and great-grandparents, we cannot simply accept what appears on documents. We must ask why, where, and how. Why was my great aunt Janie living with my grandmother? The record says she was a student—where did she attend school? How did she become disabled?"

If you have ever read *Kindred* by Octavia Butler, you may remember that Dana physically travels back and forth through time, each time meeting her ancestor, Rufus. When we are contemplating the lives of those who came before us, we must imagine our interaction with them on that scale. We must, as best we can, imagine their daily lives in every moment they existed. What did it take to get dressed each day when there was no electricity and water came from a well pump outside? When did toiletries like soap start being a store bought item? Did my great grandmother have to make her own? How did she make it and what did it feel like? Were nights silent or were they filled with the sounds of bullfrogs, crickets, and coyotes in the distance? Like Dana learning to see through Rufus's eyes, we must immerse ourselves in the textures and rhythms of our ancestors' world. Each time Dana traveled back to see Rufus, she discovered how different individual concerns were in his era. Her life was frequently in danger from Rufus's father, and she might go to sleep on a pallet or hard wooden floor, wondering what immediate, life-threatening danger would greet her the next day. Information moved slowly in that world—letter writing was the only form of long-distance communication, and newspapers, when they came at all, were four to eight pages long, published inconsistently, and carried news from across the Atlantic that was already weeks old. Each time she returned to her own time, she carried this mindset with her and had to readjust to modern life.

We must do the same in pursuit of our ancestors, piecing them together like a puzzle, sleuthing out their lives like detectives. In the end, what we always discover is that despite their lack of security, limited information, and constant uncertainty, our ancestors not only survived—they persevered. The stories of their lives depend on us to listen, to piece together their fragments, and to honor their resilience by understanding their world as fully as we can.♣



## Carletta Davis

### Restoring Trust and Building A NEW FUTURE FOR PRICHARD

#### A Vision for Hope and Leadership

The foundation of any relationship is trust. In Prichard, the trust between the people and their government has been deeply fractured.

Growing up here, I've seen the erosion of this trust firsthand—hopeful civic engagement reduced to near absence. I've witnessed the hurt and frustration of the community after voting for what seemed to be "the answer," only to face disappointment. Conversations of hopelessness and uncertainty broke my heart.

In 2011, I began advocating for justice and equity, fighting for a seat at the table. Along the way, I've rarely seen consistent advocacy from those in leadership positions. My fight has been relentless and unapologetic.

Now, I've come to a crossroads in this journey, realizing that Prichard needs new political leadership — a new hope and vision for a thriving future. Trust must be earned back through leadership that values the pain of the community and seeks to give rather than take.

I've answered the call to become the next political ambassador for Prichard. Born and raised here, I graduated from CF Vigor High School in 1992. I envision Prichard as a place of pride and dignity, a beacon of hope for Mobile County. I honor our elders and their contributions, and I support the young families working to create safe spaces for their children. I see the sparkle in the eyes of our youth, full of imagination and belief in what our city can become.

I understand the skepticism that comes with promises from yet another candidate. So, I won't make promises. What I will do is share my heart's desire — to see the joy of laughter replace sorrow, to witness the proud look on faces when Prichard is mentioned, and to build a NEW FUTURE together.

This is the vision I offer to you — a vision rooted in love, hope, and unwavering commitment to our community.

**Let Us Set the Course Forward... TOGETHER!**

###

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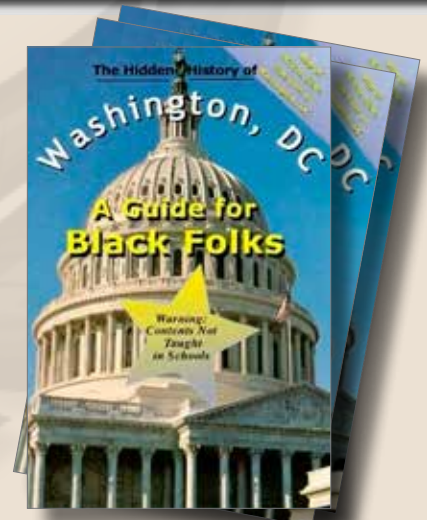


# Literary Corner...

Dr. Tingba Apita

PHOTO  
UNAVAILABLE

Washington, D.C. was once known as the Congo of America. Read about the DC slave laws, White House slavery, and the African slaves who built the Capital. This book reveals the real story of Pocahontas and the Black History behind such famous tourist attractions as the Washington Monument and the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials. Included is a map of slave sale sites in Washington, DC. In addition to this book, the author wrote two other hidden history books; of New York and of Massachusetts. ♣



Ronald Dalton Jr.



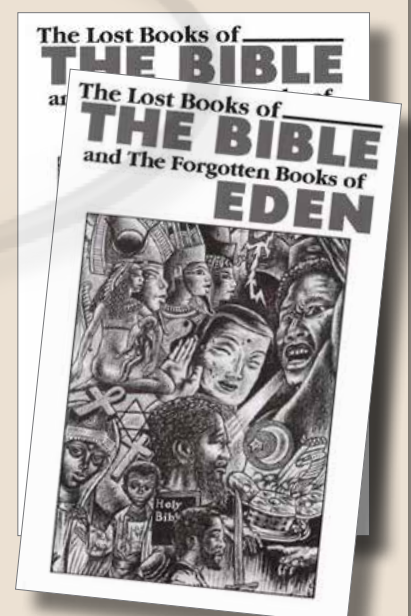
This book touches on subjects too controversial for most authors to reveal to the people. This book will expose the truths that have been hidden by the powers that be in America. Since the European and Arab slave traders stepped foot into Africa, Blacks have been told lies about their heritage. This was all by Satan's design for he is the father of lies. This is the book that all Black people must read. Since biblical times, there has been a satanic agenda to destroy God's Chosen People. Inside Hebrews To Negroes you will find the answers to all the burning questions you have wanted to ask your parents, teachers, and pastors for years. The author was born in Pittsburgh, PA. to parents who had experienced different parts of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's. His mother grew up in the New York housing projects in Harlem with a mixed heritage by way of Virginia and the West Indies (Antigua). While his mother experienced the Black Power movement in Harlem around such leaders as Busy Newton, his father experienced racism while growing up in West Virginia during the Jim Crow Era. Ronald would grow up in a Black Pentecostal Christian household. His reading of the Bible and working at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit, where he saw the suffering of his fellow Black people on a grand scale, led him to ask God for wisdom and knowledge to explain the madness that he was seeing in the Black community. God heard his prayers and opened his eyes to the real truth that you will find in the pages of this book. ♣



Ronald H. Platt



Though apocryphal in nature, this book was suppressed by the Church Fathers and is fascinating and beautifully written. Here you can read for yourself many of the manuscripts which were excluded from the Canon of Scripture, and discover new appreciation for those which were chosen. In the words of the author, "During my first 50 years on this earth, I often wondered if there wasn't more to the Bible than we were receiving. It always seemed odd that a group of men could decide what should and should not be in the Bible. These additional gospels, letters, and stories seem to tie up some loose ends, at least for me. More of Jesus's childhood days are written about as well as a detailed history of Adam and Eve and their descendents and how the 'family tree' ties all of the Old Testament together. One must, however, keep an open mind and realize that these stories, like the ones in the Bible, have been handed down from word of mouth throughout the centuries until a method of preserving them was perfected. This book is great for a Bible Study group and will open the eyes of those who have never been, up to now, able to hear this collection of great books before. I highly recommend this for anyone interested in the history of mankind." ♣







**Greg Cyprian**  
PUBLISHER/EDITOR  
Steppin' Out News



# Trump's Big Beautiful Bill Will Hurt America

## —BLACKS, ELDERLY and the POOR will FEEL THE PAIN—

The recently passed budget bill pushed by Donald Trump and celebrated by the majority of Republicans in the House and Senate will take a toll on many Americans. The elderly, the poor, and a large number of Blacks in this country will pay a heavy price. The bill will cut Medicaid by an estimated \$880 billion dollars, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by \$300 billion, and subsidies for federal student loans, Pell Grants, and legal aid services. Many who voted for Trump for his "business sense and economic wisdom" will soon find out that they will be touched by policies they thought would touch others. This budget will trim federal spending, but as DOGE (the Department of Government Efficiency) has shown, it guts and destroys programs and services that serve this country and are a lifeline to millions. Storylines coming from the White House speak of spending cuts and tax relief from Tips, while actually expanding tax breaks that benefit the wealthy while hurting further those already suffering from economic disadvantages.

Here's a list of some of the ways that this budget will affect the poor, the elderly, and Black communities:

### 1. CUTS TO MEDICAID

Although less than one-third of Black Americans rely on Medicaid, these cuts will limit access to vital care, including maternal health, elder care, and mental health services.

### 2. CUTS TO SNAP

Black households, already more likely to face food insecurity, will be among the hardest hit as stricter requirements and reduced benefits threaten their access to food assistance.

### 3. EXPANDED TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

The bill raises the SALT deduction cap, benefiting higher-income earners while doing nothing for Black families who remain underrepresented among wealthy taxpayers. (This bill raises the deduction from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for the next 5 years with a 1% increase each year).

### 4. ELIMINATION OF SUBSIDIZED FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS

This change makes higher education less affordable for Black students, who already borrowed more and face greater

financial strain when repaying their loans. (Which also will affect revenue at Historically Black Colleges and Universities).

### 5. REDUCED ACCESS TO PELL GRANTS

Tightened eligibility for Pell Grants will shut the door on college access for many low-income Black students.

### 6. CUTS TO PUBLIC HOUSING AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Black families, who make up a large percentage of renters and low-income households, will feel the impact as affordable housing options dwindle.

### 7. ATTACK ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) AND RACIAL EQUITY FUNDING

The bill eliminates funding tied to DEI efforts, erasing support for Black businesses, community programs, and anti-discrimination work.

### 8. JOB LOSSES FROM FEDERAL AGENCY CUTS

Black Americans are overrepresented in the public sector. Massive agency cuts threaten thousands of stable, middle-class jobs.

### 9. REDUCED FUNDING FOR LEGAL AID SERVICES

Legal aid programs that help Black families fight evictions, discrimination, and labor violations face elimination or severe funding cuts.

### 10. SLASHED MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The budget cuts support for community-based programs that provide trauma care, youth mentoring, and violence prevention in under a resources Black neighborhoods.

NOTE: Portions of this article was resourced from The Washington Informer, a Black owned publication, and reporter Stacy M. Brown, a senior writer for The Washington Informer and the senior national correspondent for the Black Press of America.♣





**All Things Natural**  
**Tanene Jackson**  
 TRICHOLOGIST;  
 OWNER/OPERATOR of LOCS OF SOUL, LLC

# Passing Through Time...

Time. What is it exactly? We are born. We age. We die. That is the natural order. Sometimes, we get a second and third chances at life I would expect that to be an interesting dance of intentionality. However, there comes a time in everyone's life when something or someone passes away. Unfortunately, we may or may not know when or how? As people, we try to hope, pray, and anticipate healing. Never recognizing that once the loved one is gone, we are subconsciously indoctrinated into an exclusive club called "The Lost Parents Society." It does not come with an invite or phone call. It just happens.

The many boxes of used tissue and heartfelt tears won't change the inevitable. It will not change the shock, dismay, anger, confusion, mental replays, coulda..shoulda..what ifs, or the possible disgust, and maybe possible peace.

At the beginning of your welcoming, you experience hugs, kisses of endearment, the holding of hands, stories of others' loss, prayers, condolences, memories, bonding, and consultation intiating you into a 12 step program of what's to come, as you move through your grief. I believe this is where you start your healing. There's no manual that says when it's supposed to take place.

You try your best to hold on to a scent, last words, or laughter shared that you selfishly claim your own. Your reality is altered. Your perception becomes blurred with the inevitable "WHY"?

You learn to master smiling while crying. You may even place memorials in personal places, naming plants and spaces. If you have lost someone/something close, you understand these words. The level of empathy from others can be overwhelming at times, but truly appreciated. Who knows how long grieving takes. I imagine a lifetime pending who or what was lost. Grief hits you in waves when you least expect it. A tear may be shed, or a smile will come out of nowhere. It's just your time and personal moment spent with their spirit.

I don't know what you believe in....but I do believe the body is a vessel that the spirit resides. The spirit is energy. Energy doesn't die. With that being said, what we physically remember is what we miss because we can't touch, see, or feel. But.... the spirit will always be with and around us. The spirit is energy, and energy never dies. In my view, they are still living just in another form. Learn from the negative that was experienced. Embrace the positive they left behind. Hold on to it and keep living.♣

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## The Dessert in Healthcare

Dorshell Ferrell, RN, LMT

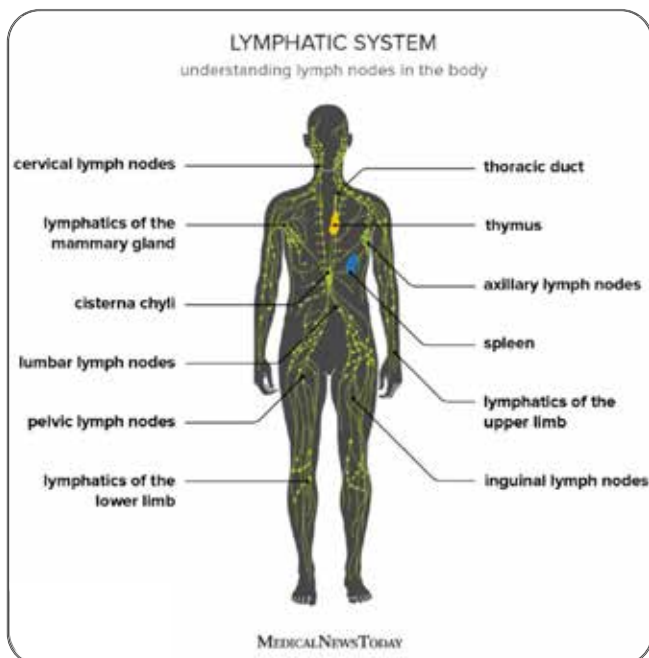


## Massage and Lymphatic Health

The lymphatic system is an organ system that is part of the immune system; it's also complimentary to the circulatory system.

The lymphatic system is made of a large network of lymphatic vessels, lymph nodes, lymphoid organs, lymphatic tissue and lymph. The lymphatic system protects us from infection and helps maintain a balance of fluid throughout our bodies. It acts as a drainage system; removing excess fluid, cellular debris, bacteria and other waste products from our bodies. If these substances are not removed from our bodies, there can be a negative impact on our general health and specific body function. A build-up of fluid can cause swelling, a weakened immune system and an increased risk of infection. A buildup of toxins can lead to symptoms like, muscle pain, skin issues (acne). Other potential symptoms that a poor lymphatic drainage system can contribute to is joint pain and stiffness, headaches, digestive bloating/constipation, worsen allergies, mental foggy and mood irregularities.

A healthy lymphatic circulation is essential for overall health. Regular physical activity (exercise) can help stimulate lymphatic flow and improve the system ability to remove these waste products. A lymphatic massage also known as lymphatic drainage massage helps by stimulating the lymphatic system. It can also promote relaxation, reduce stress and improve circulation. This is done through gentle rhythmic strokes that moves the fluid through the lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes. The removal of this fluid detoxifies and reduce swelling from the body. Lymphatic massage has many other benefits like speeding up the healing process after injuries or surgeries by reducing inflammation and promoting tissue repair. It can improve skin tone and texture by promoting lymphatic drainage and reducing swelling. It improves circulation and digestion. Massage therapy is inclusive to overall health maintenance. Massage therapy is healthcare.♣



## APPOINTS a NEW PRINCIPAL...

## Dr. Jaclyn STRINGER



MAEF Public Charter Schools is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Jaclyn Stringer as the new principal of ACCEL Academy (high school division). A highly respected educator with over two decades of experience in K-12 education, Dr. Stringer brings a strong background in instructional leadership, student development, and career readiness.

Dr. Stringer most recently served as assistant principal at Saraland High School, where she led academic programming and school-wide initiatives. Prior to that, she was the career technical administrator for Chickasaw City Schools, expanding workforce development opportunities and fostering industry partnerships. Her career began in the Mobile County Public School System, where she served as a teacher, counselor, and 21st Century program director. "I am excited to join ACCEL as the new principal, as it offers an opportunity to lead and inspire in a vibrant educational setting," said Dr. Stringer. "This role is the ideal next step in my career, allowing me to foster innovation and support student growth alongside a dedicated team. I look forward to facilitating an atmosphere where both students and educators can thrive!"

Dr. Stringer holds a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of South Alabama. She also earned a master's degree in school counseling and a bachelor's degree in education from the same institution. Her leadership in career readiness and student support has been recognized through RAMP Awards and Programs of Distinction, and she has presented at multiple education conferences across the region.

"Dr. Stringer brings the kind of experienced, student-centered leadership we value across our schools," said Dr. Marlon Firle, Superintendent of MAEF Public Charter Schools. "We are confident that her passion, vision, and dedication to excellence will have a lasting impact on the students and faculty at ACCEL."

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Stringer enjoys traveling with her husband and their children. She is an active worship leader in her church and a proud member of the MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians. Dr. Stringer will assume her new role at ACCEL Academy this summer.

###









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



**THANK YOU!**  
**THANK YOU!**  
**THANK YOU!**

Dear Voters of Prichard City Council District #2,

Recently, I learned that for this election cycle, my candidacy for the city council is unopposed for this new term of office. It is with my profound and heartfelt appreciation that I give thanks to God, my family, my re-election committee, my many supporters, and the good residents of District #2. In addition to the foregoing, I want to add thanks to the greater community of the City of Prichard and the surrounding communities.

Most of you know that many of life's accomplishments are not achieved alone and the mission ahead for our new city council will require the leadership, cooperation, and focused vision for a greater Prichard. This requires the best from our elected officials and the entire Prichard community.

In closing, I want to assure my supporters that your trust and confidence in my leadership on the city council is both an honor and a privilege, which I do not take lightly. I will work by doing my best to improve our district and city to a level that I hope many of you will be proud of.

Again, My Sincere Thanks,

**Councilwoman Stephani Johnson-Norwood**  
Vice President Prichard City Council District 2

**"Still Working for a Brighter Day!"**





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for **MAYOR**  
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## IT STARTS WITH WATER—BECAUSE WATER IS LIFE.

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

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

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

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

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

## PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE. REBUILDING TRUST. RESTORING HOPE

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

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

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



# Hats Off

**Congratulations!**

**Emma Ashley**

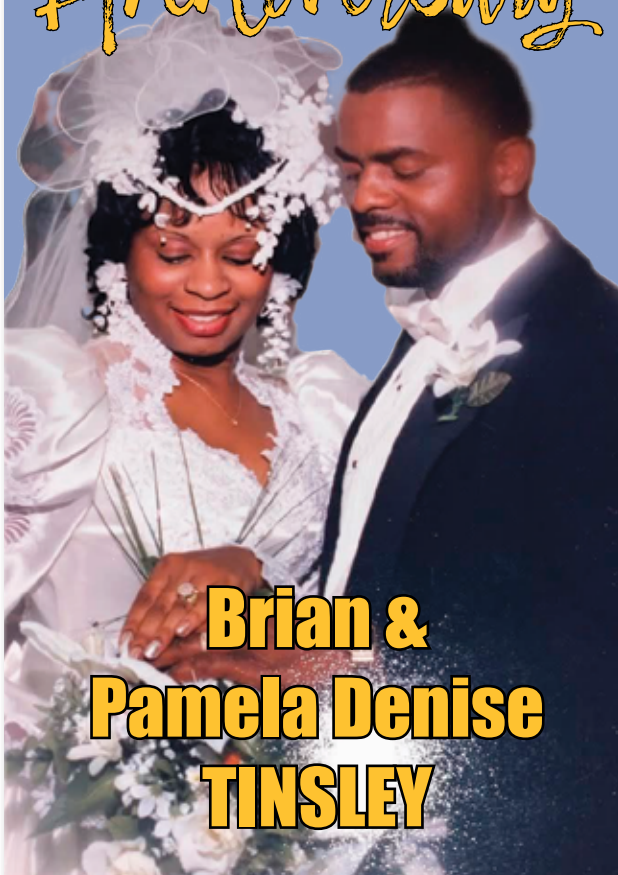


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NAMED

**Man of the Year**

by PRICHARD ALUMNI  
CHAPTER KAPPA ALPHA PSI



## BLACK AMERICAN POLITICS

Joseph Mitchell PhD  
CITIZEN MUSICIAN & POLITICIAN



## So You Want to Change Something

We take the position that you or your organization (change agent/s) wants to change something. We offer the following information that might be helpful. We assume that what you want to change is already controlled by some other entity. We also assume that you know every detail of what it is you want to change. By that we mean you know the history of its origins, the history of previous changes and the socio-political environment that gave it rise and now supports it.

Change does not take place in a vacuum. The change agent **MUST** be very knowledgeable of the environment in which change will be introduced for several reasons not the least of which is that the intended change effort may have already met with a dismal failure in the past, either distant or recent. We therefore suggest that rather than "go to the cutting-edge" for change strategies, it is better to, first, go to "the morgue": Look at earlier change efforts and determine what killed those efforts! Do your homework.

These methodologies will apply in nearly every environment including education, church, corporates and so on.

PREMISE: "A community does not just spring into existences. Forces internal and external to a population stir that population into existence and/or action."

PREMISE: "Any successful civil action must have its origin within the population most committed to a given set of ideals, outcomes and interests."

PREMISE: "Change, at any level, demands at least some minimal organization. The greater the change, the greater the need for greater organization, planning and preparation."

PREMISE: "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

PREMISE: "Power can be defined, identified, and approached."

PREMISE: "Change can be had within each generation."

Things to do to establish "a sense of community:" Determine WHO is the community

Community Organizing: To be most effective, community organizing is a house-by-house and block-by-block process **BASED ON STANDING ISSUES**. Organizing will also rely upon the information extracted from individuals, households, businesses, etc.

TO BE CONTINUED♣

## Bettis Announces for Prichard's DISTRICT 4



"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them." These words from Ida B. Wells, an early 20th Century Black investigative journalist, sociologist, educator, and early leader in the civil rights movement, is the Battle Cry for Teresa Fox-Bettis. A dedicated community advocate and lifelong resident of Prichard, Alabama, Teresa has announced her candidacy for Prichard City Council, District 4. Driven by service, guided by integrity, she has an unwavering belief in the Promise of Prichard and the Strength of its people.

### Bettis Brings a Wealth of Specialized Knowledge That No Other Candidate Can Match... Which Includes:

- Housing & Development:** HUD certification, legal training at John Marshall Law School, and 25 years of monitoring complex housing programs
- Environmental Justice:** Board leadership on Mobile Environmental Justice Action Coalition and Taproot Earth addressing and advocating for reduced climate and health impacts
- Economic Development:** Port of Africatown leadership and Building Alabama Reinvestment board service, focusing on business creation and financial inclusion
- Emergency Response:** Recognized nationally for Hurricane Katrina recovery leadership proving she can deliver under pressure
- Agricultural Innovation:** North Mobile County Farmers Market board service positioned to create Prichard's agricultural hub.

### If Elected, Bettis Pledges to Bring Forth Her Vision and Priorities for District 4... That Include:

- Enhanced Public Safety:** Strengthen community-police collaboration, increase neighborhood patrols, and boost funding for emergency services
- Upgrade Infrastructure:** Repair streets, improve lighting expand sidewalks, and ensure reliable water and sewage systems
- Remove Blight:** Strengthen housing and land ordinances to hold slumlords and business owners accountable for maintaining their properties. Conduct a property assessment of District 4 and bring in funding through grants to help homeowners with repairs and support small businesses in maintaining their spaces.
- Affordable Housing:** Strengthen rental housing standards, create homeownership incentive programs, partner with non-profits and use her community development experience to create permanently affordable housing while building resident equity
- Support Local Economy:** Encourage small-business development through streamlined permitting, economic incentives, and revitalization of District 4 commercial corridors
- Invest In Youth & Education:** Increase access to after-school programs, mentorship, vocational training, and job readiness initiatives for students and young adults
- Promote Transparency & Civic Engagement:** Host regular town hall meetings, ensure meaningful dialogue, and prioritize open lines of communication with constituents. Launch Participatory Budgeting, where residents have input.

"As a lifelong Prichard resident, I've seen firsthand the resilience of District 4 families," said Fox-Bettis. "I'm seeking to serve you, the residents of District 4 as your City Council representative to harness that spirit, confront our challenges directly, and ensure every family in our district has the opportunity to thrive."♣



# HELEN WRIGHT Announces Campaign for PRICHARD MAYOR

I have a great love for Prichard and it is my intention to see it thrive and do well, said Wright. My first position with the city's government was as an Administrative assistant to the mayor. This position allowed me to attend meetings that the mayor could not attend. I later became Community Development Director and responsible for a number of duties in recording the city's assets. From property lines and boundaries of the land owned by the city, to listing the churches within the city, to recording of the city ordinances, all of which gave me a strong working knowledge of how the city worked."

Wright also worked in the Environmental Department, the Public Works Department as Office Manager, and the City Clerk office as Grant Administrator. She also managed all liens and deeds of properties given to the city. Her accomplishments include completion of the city's Bus Hub after it sat idle for many years, restarting the Juneteenth Celebration, another project that was discontinued, and under former Mayor Ron Davis, started the Small Business Development Program and the Yard of the Month Program.

Beyond soliciting the funds to pay for the Juneteenth Celebration and the scholarships associated with the event, she also started the Closing The Revolving Door Foundation in 2014. That program, with the help of the Hope Program with US Attorney Kenyan Brown, helped ex-offenders get acclimated back into society and provided GED and Anger Management classes.

"I didn't just start loving this city, I have been putting love into it for many years, said Wright. My nonprofit has housed women and men in Christ and the First Responders Group. As the Mayor, I know my task will not be easy. I have a vision for the city and a detailed plan for our police department, our downtown area, our unemployed citizens, for people who would like to own a home, and for young people to have businesses. I'd like a place for our youth to gather, a park for our babies, with swings and all the things that they should have. We need a place downtown with cooking classes, Black history school, and many new businesses. We need a new young educated focused Black Chamber of Commerce who will go out and solicit businesses. I pledge to do this and more for the City of Prichard."



## Financial Tips Gwedolyn Hall



## Let's Talk Vacation!!

Yes, that time of the year you have been waiting for has arrived. Hopefully and prayerfully, you have been putting a little bit of funds away for this magical time or paying for that dream vacation ahead of travel time. If you have, good for you! If you have not, here are a few tips you may want to check out.

### 1. VACATION or STAYCATION

- Look for a reasonable trip and consider the cost.
- Book your flights and hotel/Airbnb/camp/etc. early.  
The earlier you book the better in most cases.
- Consider staying at home and taking a day trip locally.  
There are a lot of exciting things to do within your home radius.
- Think about the time of the year when traveling. Although the beach is so inviting during the summer, this may be the time to go on an educational trip to some historical sites with the kids.
- If possible, avoid holidays and the weekend. Traveling during the week will save money.

### 2. SPEND WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD.

- Determine your budget for the trip and stay within it.
- Look for travel discounts.
- Travel with snacks and other refreshments as they can get costly on the trip.
- If you have points on credit cards or other discounts, this may be the time to use them.

### 3. CONSIDER GROUP TRIPS

- One option is to reduce costs to go on a group trip.
  - A second option is to go with family and/or friends.
  - Combining costs may save and increase your level of fun.
4. Whatever you decide to do for vacation, make it fun and exciting. You are making memories, and you want to enjoy it. Remember to stay vigilant with your plans. Plan early, take advantage of discounts that may be available to get the best bang for your money! While vacationing, remember to watch and secure your personal belongings. Always watch your surroundings. Pay in advance if you can and only travel with secure funds!

**RELAX AND ENJOY!❖**





**Greg Cyprian**  
PUBLISHER/EDITOR  
Steppin' Out News

# Who Will and Should You Vote For???

## YOUR CHOICES...

### CHOICES Choices choices...

There are municipal elections about to happen in Prichard and Mobile on August 26 and the question for many is...Who Will and Should I Vote For??? For me, in both cities, there are candidates that I know personally. There are candidates that I have worked with. There are candidates that I don't know at all, but I've heard things. There are candidates that I know things about. There are candidates that have been busy in the community. There are candidates that the community has never seen. And of course, there are the promises.

### PROMISES Promises promises...

The promise of being honest and transparent. The promise of being fair to all. The promise of support for first responders and holding them responsible for their actions. The promise of not being like the previous administration. The promise of being like the last administration. The promise of continuing to do what they have done in the past. The promise of supporting small businesses. The promise of being available when you call. The promise of how they support the issues that you care about. The promise of how they'll clean up your community. The promise of how they will address crime in your neighborhood and your city. The promise that they'll communicate and be honest and will keep you informed about what's happening in your neighborhood and your city. Here's the only definite in this whole equation. You!!! You're the only one that you can depend on. Someone will definitely be elected whether you voted for them or not. Make sure they know who you are. In other words, HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE!!! You see them when it's photo-op time. When it's time to cheese with the celebrity that is in town or when it's time to flip dirt with the golden shovel, but what about the times that you've called about the deterioration of your neighborhood, the holes in your streets, or alerting the neighborhood about the gentrification moves that are happening all around you. Make them say "oh Crap" every time you show up! You have to be consistent with demanding the things you and your neighborhood are due from your elected officials. And keep in mind, some are very good people...but some must be made to do the things they promised. And if they don't, show up, show out, and let EVERYBODY know!

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Barbara Drummond  
Connie Hudson

Paul Prine

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Cory Penn  
Herman Thomas

#### DISTRICT 2

William Carroll  
Samantha Ingram

Reggie Hill

#### DISTRICT 3

C.J. Smalls

#### DISTRICT 4

Bill Appling  
Ben Reynolds

#### DISTRICT 5

Beau Fleming

#### DISTRICT 6

William Frazier  
Paul Onderdonk

Josh Woods

#### DISTRICT 7

Robert Battles  
Gina Gregory

### PRICHARD

#### MAYOR

Anthony Clarkbanks  
Rodney Thread Clemens, Jr.

Carletta J. Davis

Jimmie Gardner

Charles E. Harden

Terrance Harris

Lorenzo Martin

Janetta Pogue

Kelvin T. Thornton

Helen Wright

#### DISTRICT 1

Annie L. Williams

#### DISTRICT 2

Stephani Johnson-Norwood

#### DISTRICT 3

Mario Cannon

Tony Causey

Traci D. Hale

Mario E. Yow Sr.

#### DISTRICT 4

Teresa Fox-Bettis

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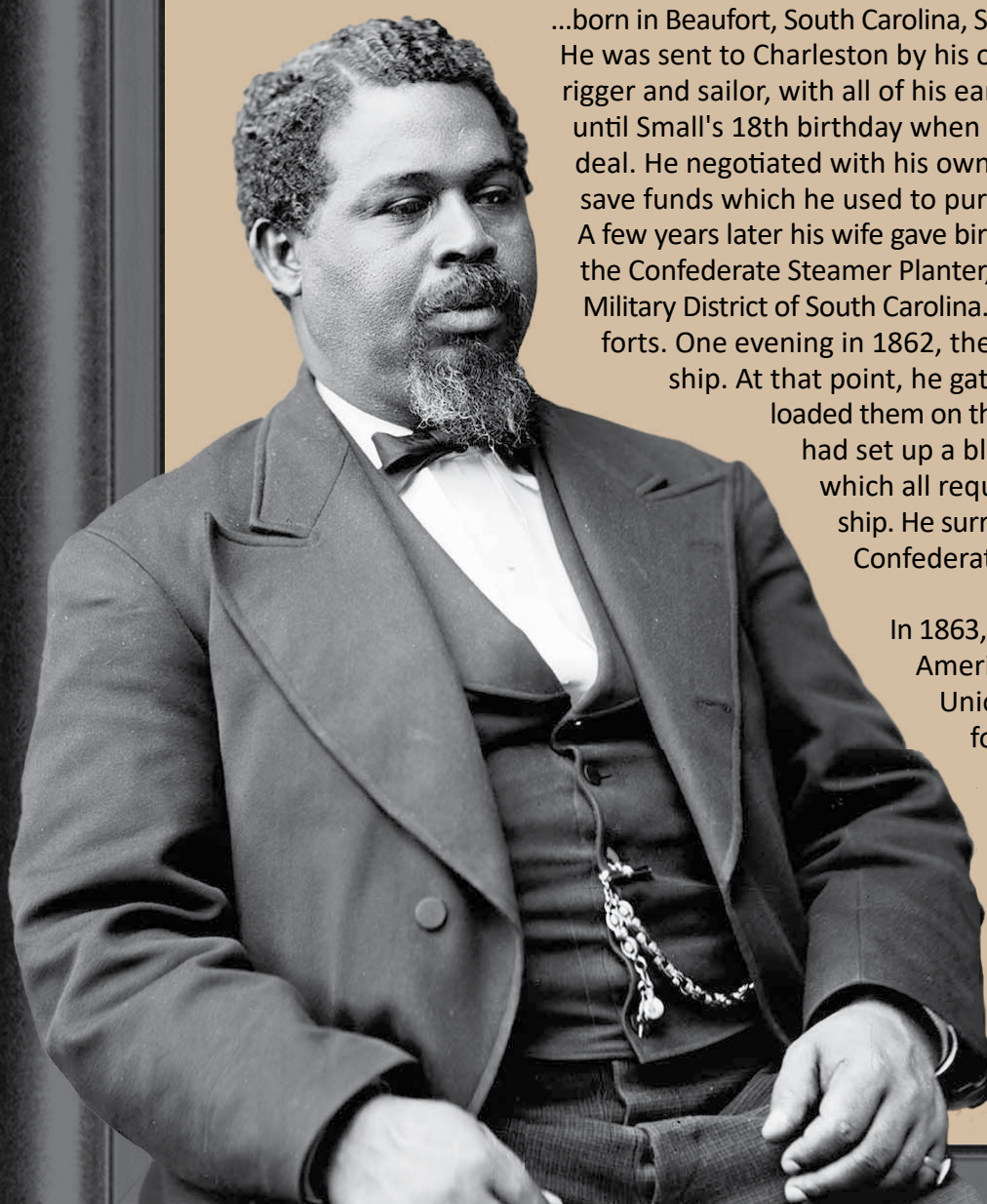
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The Portraits In Black Section of Steppin' Out Newspaper represents a collaborative effort between the 92nd Division Buffalo Soldiers of WWII, Sankofa Media Group Alabama, and Legacy 166, an Arts, Culture, Education, and Anti-Poverty Nonprofit Organization. This section will be used to highlight Military and Black History, to report events and activities that honor all of our veterans of all races, creed, and color in our country, and to highlight sponsors and supporters that choose to honor and support our nation's warriors, past and present. If you wish to donate and to become a sponsor to this effort, contact Sankofa Media at 251-217-1220 to get information for your tax deductible contribution.

# PORTRAITS 'n BLACK

## Robert Smalls 1839-1915



...born in Beaufort, South Carolina, Smalls worked as a house slave until he was 12 years old. He was sent to Charleston by his owner to work as a waiter. He eventually became a ship rigger and sailor, with all of his earnings going back to his owner. This practice continued until Small's 18th birthday when he came up with a plan where he was able to work a deal. He negotiated with his owner to keep \$15 of his monthly pay. That allowed him to save funds which he used to purchase his wife and daughter from their owner for \$800. A few years later his wife gave birth to their son. In 1861, he was hired as a deck hand on the Confederate Steamer Planter, that was captained by the commander of the Second Military District of South Carolina. The ship's role was to deliver armaments to Confederate forts. One evening in 1862, the ship's crew went ashore and left Small's to guard the ship. At that point, he gathered his wife, children, and a dozen other slaves, loaded them on the ship, and sailed into the harbor where Union Ships had set up a blockade. Along the way, the ship sailed past five forts which all required the correct signal to signify it was a Confederate ship. He surrendered the ship and turned over its charts, a Confederate code book, and armaments to the Union Navy.

In 1863, he became the Captain of the Planter, the first African American Navy Captain, which had been converted to a Union war ship. It is said that Small was partly responsible for Lincoln's decision to finally allow Blacks to join the Union Army.

After the war, he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives during Reconstruction, and later to the Senate. When his term ended, he moved back to Beaufort where he became United States Collector of Customs, bought the house where he was a slave, and died at the age of 76. Smalls and his family are buried in Beaufort. ♣



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# Welcome Steppin' Out **NEW CONTRIBUTORS!**

HELLO STEPPIN' OUT READERS,  
Two months ago, we added three new contributors. This month, we're bringing on two more. We had not planned to do so but we felt that the subject matter they will be covering are affecting our culture in one case that many Black families have dealt with but kept it in their homes behind closed doors or in the case of the other, many have thought about and want to experience by visiting or, in some cases, making a permanent change. So let us introduce them to you...



**Sher Graham**

Graham is a NeuroBehavior Health Communications and Economics Strategist and a Best-Selling Author/Speaker. With that Skillset, we asked her to contribute to the paper based on her expertise in Mental Health. Mental health in the Black community is impacted by systematic racism, historical trauma, and socio-economic factors, leading to disparities in mental health outcomes and access to care. Our youth have been experiencing higher rates of suicide attempts, something at one time was almost unheard of in our community. Black adults are more likely to experience serious mental health conditions like major depressive disorder and generalized anxiety disorder.

Graham is a native of Ohio and a mental health advocate who inspires her audiences through sharing her personal journey as an unwanted child. Through her column, *Mental Health Moments*, she will provide you, our readers, with moments of wisdom, knowledge, and tips on creating a healthier mental health mindset for you, your family, your co-workers, and your community.♣



**Chris Williams**

Williams was born in Mobile and grew up in Toulminville and Prichard. He attended Most Pure Heart of Mary and McGill Toolen High School. He joined the US Air Force which gave him the ability to travel the world and to learn and respect other cultures. After leaving military service, he spent 17 years in London working in senior management for local government. He founded his own recruitment business working with local government providing temporary staff in administration, financial and residential care in the community. He obtained his MBA from Birbeck University in London. In his spare time he followed his love for football where he played and coached several European teams in England. While in London, he was persuaded to travel to Ghana in West Africa and fell in love with the African lifestyle. He returned to Mobile in 2007 and continued coaching at Williamson High School.

In his column, *Cultural Journey Home*, he hopes to inspire others to visit the Motherland of Africa and to give insight into the cultural beauty of Africa and to open your mind about the history of our people and the origin of African culture. Chris is looking to inspire others to realize that home is where your peace is and we should in our short life experience as much peace from other countries as we can. You can venture out and find it in places that you never thought you would be.♣



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# BLAQUE HISTORY 24/7—365

## Elicia "E J" Jaxon



## THE TIGNON LAW

### How Black Women Turned Oppression into Fashion and Resistance

In 1786, in Spanish-controlled Louisiana, a law was passed that revealed more about fear than fashion. Governor Esteban Rodríguez Miró enacted the **Tignon Law**, mandating that free Black women, particularly Creole women of color, cover their hair in public.

The reason? Their beauty was too bold. Their style, too elaborate. Their presence, too confident. These women turned heads — not just for their looks, but for what their appearance represented: independence, elegance, and undeniable self-assurance. That was a problem for the white ruling class.

Rather than address their own discomfort, white society tried to legislate modesty. The tignon — a headwrap — was meant to suppress individuality and prevent Black women from “distracting” white men or competing with white women. The message was clear: cover it up, tone it down.

#### But Black Women Did the Opposite...

Instead of hiding, they made art. They styled their tignons in vibrant fabrics, adorned them with jewels, feathers, and rich folds. What was meant to humble them became a display of cultural pride and resistance. The law tried to make them invisible, but they became even more captivating. The tignon became more than a garment. It was a crown — one worn with pride and purpose. In a society that tried to criminalize Black beauty, Black women turned restriction into radiance. This story



reflects a recurring pattern: when Black women display confidence and culture, they're often punished. And when white women imitate the same, they're praised.

Years after the law's enactment, **Empress Joséphine**, Napoleon Bonaparte's wife and a white Creole woman with Caribbean ties, visited New Orleans. She wore the tignon — not because she had to, but because she wanted to. On her, it was “exotic,” “elegant,” and “fashionable.”

The same garment once used to suppress was now rebranded as high fashion — but only on a white woman. This isn't an isolated moment. It's a pattern deeply rooted in American culture: Black expression is regulated, then appropriated. From hairstyles to slang to fashion, Black women are policed — until their style is co-opted, stripped of its history, and celebrated elsewhere.

The tignon law was never just about headwraps. It was about control. And yet, Black women turned control into creativity, and marginalization into power. Even today, the headwrap endures — not as a reminder of oppression, but as a symbol of resilience, beauty, and legacy. The same grace that once disrupted social order now defines it. Because when Black women are told to shrink, they shine. When told to hide, they lead. And when others try to erase them, they create something too powerful to ignore.

**Heavy is the Head that Wears the Crown.  
But Even Heavier is the History Behind It!**





# SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

**Pastor A.Z. Johnson**

## **MIDWAY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH —MOBILE, ALABAMA—**

Hello Readers. This month's conversation is with another dynamic person of GOD. Pastor Johnson is the Husband of Dr. Nina Ford Johnson; Father of the Johnson Trio - Bella, Ava and Poppy; Manager of Rice-Reese Funeral Home and Pastor of Midway Missionary Baptist Church. Aside from which, he's a Great Friend and Mentor to many... PASTOR A.Z. JOHNSON, a.k.a. "PASTOR ZACK".

### **Can You Share the Story of How Your Calling Into Ministry First Came About, and the Vision That God Placed On Your Heart Through It?**

JOHNSON: I KNEW from a child that I was different. I LOVED being in church! My punishment would be not being able to attend a 3:00 PM service with my grandmother. As a child, while others were out playing childhood games (and yes, I also participated in them), a lot of times I would sneak away and get a Bible and read it trying to understand the Word of God.

My cousins and I would often times play church in my grandmother's back yard. Her door steps served as the choir stand, I made a makeshift pulpit, and I placed chairs in the back yard for my friends and cousins to sit in while I preached. I would run what I call side-walk revival services in my parent's front yard where I would preach to anyone who would pass by and listen. I come from a long line of preachers in my family. My late grandmother (Willie Mae Terrell) would often tell me that I had a 'mark' on my life. At the time I could not comprehend exactly what she was talking about...but as I grew older I came to fully understand what she meant. Prior to me fully accepting my call into the ministry, I had several confirmations. I dreamed that I was in a huge church (it looked like my home church of Revelation MBC)...I was dressed in all white. The ushers opened the double doors and as I was preaching... people were coming from everywhere.

My mother dreamed that I was at her house once. She stated that it was storming outside and that when I came in, she noticed that I was very oily. She stated that everywhere I walked a pool of oil would settle around my feet. When I went to the cabinet to open it; she said as soon as I placed my hand on the handle to open the cabinet oil would just pour out all over me. I have a lot more stories as it relates to my calling too numerous to count.

### **When, Where, And How Did Your Calling to Pastor Midway Missionary Baptist Church Take Root and What Was the Driving Passion Behind Your Start There?**

JOHNSON: I preached my initial sermon at Revelation Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, June 10, 2001. I was always advised by my Pastor to never go and apply for a church—that if a church was interested in you they would reach out to you. I had that mindset from 2001 until 2016. One Sunday in August 2016 a mother of the church came to me and gave me an envelope with my name on it. She stated that she was supposed to get me the letter several months prior but kept forgetting. I accepted the letter. When I got home, I placed the unopened letter on the dining room table. The letter set there from August until October. One night I decided to open it. When I opened the letter it was from a church that I had never heard of (Midway MBC). I was at a time in my life where I was frustrated.



I felt like God was stirring the nest at Revelation—to the point, I no longer enjoyed going there. My wife and I were actually making preparations to move to Nashville, TN. So on a whim, I decided to go against my teaching and submit a pastoral resume. Mind you, this was the first time that I had EVER did this. The following week, I received an invitation to come and preach at Midway. I advised them that I would be coming alone because Sis. Johnson was chairperson at a program at Revelation that Sunday. I was asked to come back in December to preach and then conduct Bible Study the following week. In March of 2017 I had a work assignment that took me out of the country for 6-7 weeks (Manila, Philippines). One day while working out my cell phone rang...and when I looked at the number I noticed that I was a 251 area code. I answered the call. The voice on the other end was a member of Midway MBC inviting me to come and preach. I advised him that

I was currently out of the country and was confused as to why he was able to reach me (mind you, that was the only call that I received during my entire time in Manila. If wanted to talk to my wife, it had to be done via facebook messenger—and the connection was sketchy). He stated it must be God. I told him that I would not be back in the States until the day before Easter Sunday. They invited me to preach Easter Sunday. Monday night, I went to the gym to work out. Upon getting back home, I received a call that the church had called a meeting and had elected me to be the pastor of the church. The rest is history.

### **Since Answering Your Call to the Ministry, How Has Your Life Been Transformed Both in the Challenges You've Faced and the Blessings You've Received?**

JOHNSON: My life has changed tremendously both physically and spiritually...lol. I can say that my blessings have definitely outweighed my challenges. Each challenge that I have had as it relates to ministry—God has stepped in. In these eight years of pastoring I have gained more wisdom in navigating in ministry.

### **Do You Have a Favorite Passage of Scripture That Continues to Speak to Your Heart? If So, Why Does it Hold Such Personal Meaning For You?**

JOHNSON: Romans 8:28—And we KNOW that ALL things work together for the good of them who love God to them who are the called according to his purpose. This scripture holds such personal meaning to me for the simple fact—I have tried and proven it!! I KNOW regardless of what situation that I may encounter; God has shown me that He works it for my good but for His Glory!

continued on Page 30... see **JOHNSON**



# SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

## Evangelist Eitwanda Maxine Cleveland

### HOUSE OF JOSHUA CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH -CHICKASAW, ALABAMA-



#### Can You Share the Moment You First Recognized God's Call On Your Life for Ministry?

I was "baptized" in ministry, so to speak. I began serving on programs as early as age 5 and it felt natural, maybe because of being a PK. I believe my actual knowledge of a call to ministry was at the age of 19 which is when I began ministering through dance. God used me to minister through dance in a way that was as if His very word was being spoken (preached) without words through movement. I became known for my dance ministry and was invited to minister through dance at Church Anniversaries, Pastor Anniversaries, Women's Conferences, Family Conferences, Funerals, Weddings and in Prisons. My dance ministry, the "Moving Word," opened doors to ministering on television networks such as TBN and on big stages opening for gospel artist, Ben Tankard.

Although Dance Ministry is what resonated in my spirit as the thing that God called me to do, I still felt a tug of there being more. This tug of more was confirmed when a prophetess spoke into my life that God had placed a word in my belly and that I was to minister to a dying world through His "Preached Word," not just the "Moving Word."

#### How Did That Calling Unfold, and What Confirmed it in Your Spirit?

Well, I have always been a dreamer. My dreams were very vivid, and I could see and feel things before they happened. The church ministry that I was under at the age of 19, Church of Zion, helped me to learn and understand that my dreams were prophetic. I also learned that I had the gift of discernment with a call to intercessory prayer. I would always dream of traveling to different cities and states to visit funeral homes and attend services of complete strangers. I would walk in and stand over the casket of the deceased and just breathe on them and they would come to life. I thought that the dreams were speaking to a career path in funeral services, as I grew up around this industry. The last time I had this dream, I also heard the words of the prophetess from a couple of years prior saying to me that I was to minister to a dying world. Then the Lord spoke to me these words in Luke 4:18,19 ...The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. God was calling me to preach!

#### What Vision or Divine Assignment Has God Placed On Your Heart as You Walk Boldly in Your Calling?

Evangelism is definitely the call and assignment. I make no apology for the boldness that God has given me to declare His word and teach the plain truth without compromise. God has given me a burning passion to teach and to do so with clarity and understanding that even a child can comprehend. I am also passionate about ministering healing to women and helping them to walk in who God has predestined them to be.

#### Your Ministry Now Touches Hearts Across the Globe. As a Woman Raised in Mobile, Alabama, How Has this Global Platform Shaped Your Journey?

With great humility, I simply see it as God's will for my life being fulfilled as I have surrendered to his plan for my life, forsaking my own. As I follow God's lead, He has opened doors to platforms and placed me in spaces that I never imagined. When I was invited to minister on a global platform that touched Uganda, Nigeria, Indonesia, Botswana, Guyana, Kenya, Beijing, and across the USA; I was very humbly grateful and wowed by God's favor. My journey has proven and continues to prove God's mercy, faithfulness and abundant grace towards me.

#### How Do You Remain Grounded as God Continues to Expand your Reach?

Humility is the key, as I understand that it is not about me. This doesn't mean that I think less of myself, I just think of myself less. It is my daily desire to do what pleases Him (God). I am simply a vessel.

#### Is There a Particular Passage of Scripture that Speaks to the Very Core of Your Spirit?

Absolutely. Jeremiah 29:11, For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

#### What Makes it Especially Meaningful in Your Life and Ministry?

It's special to me because it keeps me reminded of God's love for me. A love that put a plan in motion for my life before I ever entered my mother's womb...a planned life before life. And because it's His plan, it's a perfect plan without fault or failure. When at times I feel uncertain about my journey in ministry and feel

continued on Page 34... see **CLEVELAND**





**Arthur L. Mack**  
FREELANCE WRITER  
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## Mobile County Launches Home Ownership Down Payment Program

Mobile County has launched its Home Ownership Down Payment Program, which is designed to help qualified individuals/households toward purchasing a single-family home. Qualified individuals living in the following Mobile County municipalities — Bayou La Batre, Chickasaw, Citronelle, Creola, Mount Vernon, Prichard, Saraland, Satsuma, and Semmes — as well as unincorporated areas of Mobile County, are eligible to participate in the program. Homes within the municipalities of Mobile or the town of Dauphin Island are not eligible.

Interested parties must be residents of Mobile County at the time of Hurricanes Sally and Zeta (September 11 - October 29, 2020), and be U.S. citizens or qualified aliens eligible to receive federal benefits under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), and must meet HUD income guidelines of 120 percent of the area median income (AMI) for Mobile County. Up to \$50,000 in assistance is available to qualified individuals or households toward purchasing a single-family dwelling located within the designated Mobile County area.

**Minimum Amount of Assistance Provided is \$1,000**

**Income Requirement is Based on 2025 HUD Requirements for Mobile County**

1 Person .....	\$68,450	5 Persons	\$105,600
2 Persons .....	\$78,250	6 Persons	\$113,450
3 Persons .....	\$83,000	7 Persons	\$121,250
4 Persons .....	\$97,800	8 Persons	\$129,100

Funds for the program are pending, but Johnson said those who are interested should make reasonable and meaningful contributions to their home purchase. Some of the investment requirements include investing at least \$500 towards the down payment or closing costs, and the applicant's investment must be shown on the closing disclosure.

Homebuyer counseling must be provided by a certified HUD homebuyer counselor, with counseling sessions including at least one session of four to eight hours with a six-hour minimum requirement. The application will be provided to the prospective homebuyer after the homebuyer counseling, with the homebuyer completing the HDPa county. In addition, the prospective homebuyer's eligibility for HDPa is subject to a final review for compliance by the county.

Johnson-Young said while new homes are being built in Mobile County, she is hopeful those who are eligible for the program will take advantage of the opportunity to have home ownership. *"I'm seeing a lot of infrastructure (going up) around the city (of Mobile) and the county, but I think the people who will be taking advantage of the funds will get a chance to get a piece of the pie as well,"* she said. *"I think we'll be able to help more families become homeowners. We want to help as many people as possible, especially those that are moderate or low income and those who were affected by storms during the time of Sally and Zeta."*

For more information about the program, call (251) 574-5065.♣



**NAACP**

## IMPORTANT VOTING UPDATE:

I hope this message finds you well. As we approach the upcoming election season, I want to share two important updates that may affect you, your family, friends and congregation:

### POLLING SITE CHANGES DUE TO ANNEXATION

Many local polling locations have been impacted by the recent annexation. Please take a moment to verify your designated voting site to ensure a smooth experience on election day. You can check your polling place by visiting your county's election office website or [vote.org](http://vote.org).

### NEW IRS RULING ON PASTORAL ENDORSEMENTS

On July 7, 2025, the IRS issued a landmark clarification: Pastors may now speak to their congregations about political candidates during religious services without risking the church's tax-exempt status, provided the communication is made in good faith and through customary religious channels. This change stems from a federal court settlement and marks a significant shift from previous interpretations of the Johnson Amendment.

Please feel free to share this update with your Pastor and others. If you'd like to read more about the ruling, you can search online for "IRS July 7 2025 church endorsement ruling" or view coverage from USA Today or the National Law Review.

Let's stay informed and engaged as we navigate this election season together.

### FIGHTING FORWARD

**ROBERT E. CLOPTON SR., PRESIDENT**  
**MOBILE ALABAMA NAACP**

**JOHNSON...** continued from Page 28

**We Watched the Very Beginning of the Triple Miracles, (Bella, Ava and Poppy). I Even Remember the Message and Photo You Sent Before the Official Announcement. How Do You and Elect-Lady Nina Keep It Balanced With Work, School, Church and Family Fun Time? You Make It Look Easy.**

JOHNSON: God's GRACE!!! LOL...Balance is very important with family, church, and work. One of the things that I try to be is intentional. I DO NOT ever put my job nor the church before my family. I often times remind Sis. Johnson, that before God called me to preach and to pastor. he first called me to be a husband and a father. That is my first ministry. I have been blessed in the fact that Midway truly understands that.

**There is Something Powerful in the Way Young People Connect With You. Why Do You Believe they Are So Drawn to Your Message and So Deeply Meaningful to Both You and Elect-Lady Nina?**

JOHNSON: I think it is because I try to remain relevant AND approachable. What helps us with this is the scripture "With loving kindness have I drawn thee". It has been proven. I learned a long time ago that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.







## Expressions: Right or Wrong!

**Lisa Johnson**

Have you ever talked to a person and wondered why they just don't get what you're saying? It can be as plain as the daylight outside as to what the issue is or what you're trying to get them to focus on, but they simply don't get it. Why? Could it be that their light bulb isn't on, or maybe that they don't have a light bulb to turn on in the first place? Perhaps they haven't yet discovered their source of light. Could it be they prefer darkness? I'm NOT talking about people who learn differently or process things at a different pace. Some people like darkness and choose to stay in the dark because there's no accountability if they can't see. Even after the light comes on, they choose to turn it off. For example, I recently heard a radio conversation with a lady who said she didn't know the man she was dating was married. Eventually, she found out, and the light bulb came on. What happened next? She confessed that she continued to date him anyway. The light might shine, but sometimes the heart chooses blindness over doing what's right. ~Ephesians 4:18-24~

Then there are people like me who, at times, don't get it. It's not because we don't want to, but because we need a little more clarity. Have you noticed that some people get it off the bat, while others need a little more time at the batting plate? Everyone's ability to grasp things is different. Be patient with those who need a little more time. Perhaps they need more details, graphics, pictures, or outlines to connect the dots. Don't make it hard for them to grasp the point by being short, dismissive, or worse, by embarrassing them in front of others. Just because something is crystal clear to you, it doesn't mean it is for the next person. Maybe their glass is murky. Drop some more knowledge and give them a better chance to see clearly. For example, take children learning in a classroom. Some children catch on quickly, while others need repetition or a different approach. It doesn't mean they're not smart. Their minds just work differently. But when that moment of understanding finally comes, and their faces light up with a smile, it makes you smile, thereby warming your heart. Adults are no different. I often laugh at myself when the light bulb finally clicks on. Sometimes words get lost in translation and distort the meaning for me. Once I get clarity, I'm like, "Ohhh, okay, I see what you're saying now!"

So, for those who don't get it, help them turn on the light bulb. And for those who prefer darkness, buy them a light bulb, and give it to them. ~Psalms 46:3~♣



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## Connect to Success!

**Nathaniel Patterson**

Writes about his insights and observations to create conversations, empowerment and solutions. Named "Top 200 Voices in Leadership" by LeadersHum in 2022 & 2023, Former Vice-Chair of Mobile Chamber and President, Dearborn YMCA. CONNECT on LinkedIn -or- (727) 485.3980



## The Silent and Short Memories of Mobile

My MaDear (#R.I.P.) told me, "If there is a problem, there is a solution. A solution means change, and many will detest you. Yet if you do not implement a solution, the situation worsens and it will pass onto the next generation – Do not do that to them!"

The solutions to the challenges and inequities of Mobile has been known for years: eliminate hiring discrimination, eradicate pay disparities, term limits for politicians and department heads, implement ethics terminations for conflicts of interests, enhance affordable housing, alter the Police Union contract with provisions to terminate problem officers, elect leadership that represent the constituents and not the wealthy or lobbyists, use the power of recall when they do not, target industry niches for better paying jobs and remove the cheap labor pitch – to name a few. The only way change is implemented is an organized strategic approach utilizing economic boycotts, legal challenges and more pressure on elected officials. There are few who have and are communicating this approach. Yet the problem is that too many talk silent or only focused on parks, parties and potholes.

The Black communities of Africa-Town, Down-the-Bay, Oakdale, Maysville, MLK, Texas Hill, Toulminville have been declining because of lack of investment for years. One of the greatest scandals (my opinion) was the handling of the Interstate 10 corridor development. The City and School Officials promised the Elders that they would build a School in Down-The-Bay. Many promises... few came to fruition.

In the 70s and 80s, Urban Renewal was supposed to redevelop those communities. But look at where the majority of the money went. Even when I was living in California, I heard of the discontent in the Black Community. But it rarely moved beyond our circles. Politicians and their handlers rely on that, allow the talk to die down and create short memories. Too often, the Black community demographics have been included in grants and development plans, only to see crumbs reach the Village.

Let's set a new norm - speak up with emotional intelligence and strategies. No more cowering and short memories. Show our youth how to stand tall.

**As Always Let's Be Greater! ♣**



# 2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

All Home Games Are CAPITALIZED

## NEW ORLEANS SAINTS



### PRE-SEASON

A. 10 @ Chargers ..... 3:05 pm  
A. 17 JAGUARS ..... Noon  
A. 23 BRONCOS ..... Noon

### REGULAR SEASON

S. 07	CARDINALS	..... Noon	N. 09	@ Panthers	..... Noon
S. 14	49ERS	..... Noon	N. 17	BYE	.....
S. 21	@ Seahawks	..... 3:05 pm	N. 23	FALCONS	..... 3:25 pm
S. 28	@ Bills	..... Noon	N. 30	@ Dolphins	..... Noon
O. 05	GIANTS	..... Noon	D. 07	@ Buccaneers	..... Noon
O. 12	PATRIOTS	..... 3:25 pm	D. 14	PANTHERS	..... 3:25 pm
O. 19	@ Bears	..... Noon	D. 21	JETS	..... Noon
O. 26	BUCCANEERS	..... 3:05 pm	D. 28	@ Titans	..... Noon
N. 02	@ Rams	..... 3:05 pm	TBD	@ Falcons	..... TBD

### SOUTH ALABAMA

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

### ALABAMA

A. 30 at Florida State ..... 2:30 pm  
S. 06 LOUISIANA-MONROE ..... 6:45 pm  
S. 13 WISCONSIN ..... 11:00 am  
S. 27 at Georgia ..... 6:30 pm  
O. 04 VANDERBILT ..... TBD  
O. 11 at Missouri ..... 11:00 am  
O. 18 TENNESSEE ..... TBD  
O. 25 at South Carolina ..... TBD  
N. 08 LSU ..... TBD  
N. 15 OKLAHOMA ..... TBD  
N. 22 EASTERN ILLINOIS ..... TBD  
N. 29 at Auburn ..... TBD

### ALABAMA A&M

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

### ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM

A. 28 ALABAMA STATE ..... 7:30 pm  
S. 06 at Navy ..... 2:30 pm  
S. 13 AKRON ..... 7:30 pm  
S. 20 at Tennessee ..... 11:45 am  
O. 04 ARMY ..... TBD  
O. 11 at Florida Atlantic ..... TBD  
O. 18 MEMPHIS ..... TBD  
N. 01 at UConn ..... 1:00 am  
N. 08 at Rice ..... TBD  
N. 15 NORTH TEXAS ..... TBD  
N. 22 SOUTH FLORIDA ..... TBD  
N. 29 at Tulsa ..... TBD

### ALABAMA STATE

A. 28 at Alabama-Birmingham ..... 7:30 pm  
S. 06 at Southern ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 13 MILES ..... 4:00 pm  
S. 27 at Florida A&M ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 04 BETHUNE-COOKMAN ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 11 at Jackson State ..... 2:30 pm  
O. 25 ALABAMA A&M (B'Ham) ..... 2:30 pm  
N. 01 at Prairie View ..... TBD  
N. 08 TEXAS SOUTHERN ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 15 at Mississippi Valley ..... 4:00 pm

N. 22 ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF 12:00 pm  
N. 27 TUSKEGEE ..... 2:00 pm

### AUBURN

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

### JACKSONVILLE STATE

A. 28 at Central Florida ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 06 LIBERTY ..... 11:00 am  
S. 13 at Georgia Southern ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 20 MURRAY STATE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 27 at Southern Mississippi ..... TBD  
O. 09 at Sam Houston ..... 7:00 pm  
O. 15 DELAWARE ..... 6:00 pm  
O. 29 at Middle Tennessee ..... 6:30 pm  
N. 08 at Texas El Paso ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 15 KENNESAW STATE ..... 1:00 pm  
N. 22 at Florida International ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 30 WESTERN KENTUCKY ..... 1:00 pm

### MILES

A. 31 Virginia Union (Canton) ..... 3:00 pm  
S. 06 at Edward Waters ..... 3:00 pm  
S. 13 at Alabama State ..... 5:00 pm  
S. 20 SAVANNAH STATE ..... 2:00 pm  
S. 27 at Morgan State.. ..... 1:00 pm  
O. 04 KENTUCKY STATE ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 11 at Lane College ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 18 CLARK ATLANTA ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 25 at Central State ..... 12:00 pm  
N. 01 at Fort Valley Stat ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 08 TUSKEGEE ..... 2:00 pm

### NORTH ALABAMA

A. 30 at Western Kentucky ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 06 at Southeast Missouri ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 13 NORTHEASTERN STATE ..... 00 pm  
S. 20 at Illinois State ..... 12:00 pm  
O. 04 at Abilene Christian ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 11 CENTRAL ARKANSAS ..... 3:00 pm  
O. 18 EASTERN KENTUCKY .. 6:00 pm  
O. 25 at Austin Peay ..... 3:00 pm  
N. 01 at Utah Tech ..... 3:00 pm  
N. 08 WEST GEORGIA ..... 3:00 pm

N. 15 at Tarleton State ..... 6:00 pm  
N. 22 SOUTHERN UTAH ..... 1:00 pm

### SAMFORD

A. 28 WEST GEORGIA ..... 6:30 pm  
S. 06 CITADEL ..... 2:30 pm  
S. 13 at Baylor ..... 11:00 am  
S. 20 at Western Carolina ..... 1:30 pm  
S. 27 FURMAN ..... 2:30 pm  
O. 04 at Mercer ..... 3:00 pm  
O. 18 at Virginia Military Inst. .... 12:30 pm  
O. 25 CHATTANOOGA ..... 2:30 pm  
N. 01 at Wofford ..... 12:30 pm  
N. 08 EAST TENNESSEE STATE 2:30 pm  
N. 15 at Austin Peay ..... 1:00 pm  
N. 22 at Texas A&M ..... 11:00 am

### SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

A. 30 MISSISSIPPI STATE ..... 11:00 am  
S. 06 JACKSON STATE ..... 4:00 pm  
S. 13 APPALACHIAN STATE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 20 at Louisiana Tech ..... 6:30 pm  
S. 27 JACKSONVILLE STATE ..... TBA  
O. 09 at Georgia Southern ..... TBD  
O. 18 at Louisiana-Lafayette ..... TBD  
O. 25 LOUISIANA-MONROE ..... TBD  
N. 08 at Arkansas State ..... TBD  
N. 15 TEXAS STATE ..... TBD  
N. 22 at South Alabama ..... TBD  
N. 29 TROY ..... TBD

### TROY

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

### TUSKEGEE

A. 31 WINSTON SALEM STATE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 06 CENTRAL STATE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 13 at Jackson State ..... 2:00 pm  
S. 18 at Benedict College ..... 7:00 pm  
S. 27 FORT VALLEY STATE ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 04 MOREHOUSE ..... 6:00 pm  
O. 18 at Albany State ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 25 ALLEN COLLEGE ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 01 LANE COLLEGE ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 08 at Miles College ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 27 at Alabama State ..... 2:00 pm

### WEST ALABAMA

A. 30 FORT VALLEY STATE ..... 4:15 pm  
S. 06 at Chosen University ..... 1:00 pm  
S. 13 CHARLESTON ..... 1:00 pm  
S. 20 BARTON COLLEGE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 27 at North Greenville Univ. .... TBD  
O. 04 LINCOLN UNIV. CA. .... 6:00 pm  
O. 18 WEST FLORIDA ..... TBD  
O. 25 DELTA STATE ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 01 at Valdosta State ..... TBD  
N. 15 NORTHEASTERN STAT .... 1:00 pm

COLLEGIATE GAMES



# 2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

All Home Games Are CAPITALIZED

## ALMA BRYANT

A. 15 ST. MICHAEL  
A. 29 BAKER  
S. 05 at Fairhope  
S. 12 SPRINGVILLE  
S. 19 DAVIDSON  
S. 26 at Citronelle  
O. 03 at Mary G. Montgomery  
O. 10 at Daphne  
O. 16 ROBERTSDALE  
O. 24 at Foley  
O. 31 P.D. JACKSON-OLIN

## BAKER

A. 22 THEODORE  
A. 29 at Alma Bryant  
S. 05 DAVIDSON  
S. 12 at Jackson  
S. 19 DAPHNE  
S. 26 HOUSTON COUNTY  
O. 03 at Robertsdale  
O. 10 FOLEY  
O. 17 at Mary G. Montgomery  
O. 24 FAIRHOPE  
O. 30 VIGOR

## BALDWIN COUNTY

A. 22 at Foley  
A. 29 at St. Paul's  
S. 05 SPANISH FORT  
S. 12 THEODORE  
S. 25 at Mary G. Montgomery  
O. 03 SARALAND  
O. 09 at Murphy  
O. 17 BLOUNT  
O. 24 at Gulf Shores  
O. 31 at McGill-Toolen

## BAYSHORE CHRISTIAN

A. 21 FRUITDALE  
A. 29 MCINTOSH  
S. 12 at Clarke County  
S. 19 ST. LUKE'S  
S. 26 at Floral  
O. 03 at Washington County  
O. 09 CENTRAL (Hayneville)  
O. 16 CHICKASAW  
O. 24 at Blacksher  
N. 01 at J.F. Shields

## BAYSIDE ACADEMY

A. 22 at St. Michael  
A. 29 MARBURY  
S. 05 at Orange Beach  
S. 12 MONROE COUNTY  
S. 19 at Flomaton  
O. 03 at Hillcrest (Evergreen)  
O. 10 at Cottage Hill Christian  
O. 17 EXCEL  
O. 24 at T.R. Miller  
N. 01 at Tuscaloosa Academy

## B.C. RAIN

A. 22 HILLCREST (Evergreen)  
A. 29 FOLEY  
S. 05 at UMS-Wright  
S. 12 ELBERTA  
S. 19 at Williamson  
O. 03 at LeFlore  
O. 10 CITRONELLE  
O. 17 at Faith Academy  
O. 24 VIGOR  
O. 31 at Davidson

## CHICKASAW

A. 22 at Mobile Christian  
A. 29 at Flomaton  
S. 05 at J.U. Blacksher  
S. 12 WASHINGTON COUNTY  
S. 26 FRUITDALE  
O. 03 at Central Hayneville  
O. 10 CLARKE COUNTY  
O. 16 at Bayshore Christian  
O. 24 at St. Luke's  
O. 31 SATSUMA

## CITRONELLE

A. 22 at Millry  
A. 29 ORANGE BEACH  
S. 05 FAITH ACADEMY  
S. 12 WILLIAMSON  
S. 19 VIGOR  
S. 26 ALMA BRYANT  
O. 03 at UMS-Wright  
O. 10 at B.C. Rain  
O. 17 LEFLORE  
O. 24 at Elberta

## COTTAGE HILL CHRISTIAN

A. 22 at Washington County  
A. 29 at Satsuma  
S. 05 at Hillcrest (Evergreen)  
S. 19 EXCEL  
S. 26 CHOCTAW COUNTY  
O. 03 at T.R. Miller  
O. 10 BAYSIDE ACADEMY  
O. 17 at Monroe County  
O. 24 FLOMATON  
O. 31 ST. LUKE'S

## DAPHNE

A. 22 at McGill-Toolen  
A. 29 PINE FORREST  
S. 05 MARY G. MONTGOMERY  
S. 12 FOLEY  
S. 19 at Baker  
S. 26 SPANISH FORT  
O. 03 at Davidson  
O. 10 ALMA BRYANT  
O. 17 at Fairhope  
O. 24 at Robertsdale

## DAVIDSON

A. 22 at Murphy  
S. 05 at Baker  
S. 12 FAIRHOPE  
S. 19 at Alma Bryant  
S. 26 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
O. 03 DAPHNE  
O. 10 at Robertsdale  
O. 16 FOLEY  
O. 24 at Mary G. Montgomery  
O. 31 B.C. RAIN

## FAIRHOPE

A. 22 at Spanish Fort  
A. 29 FAITH ACADEMY  
S. 05 ALMA BRYANT  
S. 12 at Davidson  
S. 19 ROBERTSDALE  
S. 26 at Theodore  
O. 03 at Foley  
O. 10 MARY G. MONTGOMERY  
O. 17 DAPHNE  
O. 24 at Baker

## FAITH ACADEMY

A. 29 at Fairhope  
S. 05 at Citronelle  
S. 12 LEFLORE  
S. 20 ELBERTA  
S. 26 at St. Paul's  
O. 03 WILLIAMSON  
O. 10 at Vigor  
O. 17 B.C. RAIN  
O. 24 UMS-WRIGHT  
N. 01 at J.M. Tate

## FOLEY

A. 22 at Baldwin County  
A. 29 at B.C. Rain  
S. 05 ROBERTSDALE  
S. 12 at Daphne  
S. 19 at Mary G. Montgomery  
O. 03 FAIRHOPE  
O. 10 at Baker  
O. 16 at Davidson  
O. 24 ALMA BRYANT  
O. 31 LEFLORE

## GULF SHORES

A. 22 at Choctawhatchee (Fl.)  
A. 29 MARY G. MONTGOMERY  
S. 05 at Saraland  
S. 12 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
S. 19 at Blount  
O. 03 at St. Paul's  
O. 10 SPANISH FORT  
O. 17 at Theodore  
O. 24 BALDWIN COUNTY  
O. 31 MURPHY

## LEFLORE

A. 22 at Robertsdale  
A. 29 UMS-WRIGHT  
S. 05 at Vigor  
S. 12 at Faith Academy  
S. 26 at Jackson  
O. 03 B.C. RAIN  
O. 10 ELBERTA  
O. 17 at Citronelle  
O. 24 WILLIAMSON  
O. 31 at Foley

## MARY G. MONTGOMERY

A. 22 PACE  
A. 29 at Gulf Shores  
S. 05 at Daphne  
S. 12 at Robertsdale  
S. 19 FOLEY  
S. 25 BALDWIN COUNTY  
O. 03 ALMA BRYANT  
O. 10 at Fairhope  
O. 17 BAKER  
O. 24 DAVIDSON

## MATTIE T. BLOUNT

A. 23 at Vigor  
A. 29 SARALAND  
S. 05 at Murphy  
S. 19 at Gulf Shores  
S. 26 at Coosa Christian  
O. 03 at Spanish Fort  
O. 10 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
O. 17 at Baldwin County  
O. 24 ST. PAUL'S  
O. 31 THEODORE

## MCGILL TOOLEN

A. 22 DAPHNE  
A. 29 MURPHY  
S. 05 at Theodore  
S. 12 at Gulf Shores  
S. 19 at Saraland  
S. 26 at Davidson  
O. 10 at Blount  
O. 17 at St. Paul's  
O. 24 SPANISH FORT  
O. 31 BALDWIN COUNTY

## MCINTOSH

A. 22 SATSUMA  
A. 29 at Bayshore Christian  
S. 12 SOUTHERN CHOCTAW  
S. 20 SWEET WATER  
S. 26 at Calhoun  
O. 03 at Millry  
O. 10 MARENGO  
O. 17 J.F. SHIELDS  
O. 24 at Fruitdale

## MOBILE CHRISTIAN

A. 22 CHICKASAW  
A. 29 PRESBYTERIAN  
CHRISTIAN (Ms)  
S. 05 at Satsuma  
S. 12 ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
S. 19 JACKSON  
S. 26 SAINT STANISLAUS  
O. 03 at Charleston (Ms)  
O. 10 at St. Michael  
O. 17 at Orange Beach  
O. 24 W.S. NEAL

## MURPHY

A. 22 DAVIDSON  
A. 29 at McGill-Toolen  
S. 05 BLOUNT  
S. 12 at St. Paul's  
S. 18 SPANISH FORT  
S. 26 at Williamson  
O. 02 at Theodore  
O. 09 BALDWIN COUNTY  
O. 16 at Saraland  
O. 31 at Gulf Shores

## ORANGE BEACH

A. 22 ELBERTA  
A. 29 at Citronelle  
S. 05 BAYSIDE ACADEMY  
S. 12 at W.S. Neal  
S. 18 SATSUMA  
S. 26 at Robertsdale  
O. 03 at Escambia County  
O. 09 at Jackson  
O. 17 MOBILE CHRISTIAN  
O. 24 ST. MICHAEL

## ROBERTSDALE

A. 15 at Smiths Station  
A. 22 LEFLORE  
A. 29 at Elberta  
S. 05 at Foley  
S. 12 MARY G. MONTGOMERY  
S. 19 at Fairhope  
S. 26 ORANGE BEACH  
O. 03 ROBERTSDALE  
O. 10 DAVIDSON  
O. 16 at Alma Bryant  
O. 24 DAPHNE

## SARALAND

A. 22 at Jackson  
A. 29 at Blount  
S. 05 GULF SHORES  
S. 12 at Spanish Fort  
S. 19 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
S. 27 MONTGOMERY CATHOLIC  
O. 03 at Baldwin County  
O. 10 ST. PAUL'S  
O. 16 MURPHY  
O. 24 THEODORE  
O. 30 CARVER (Montgomery)

## SATSUMA

A. 22 at McIntosh  
A. 29 COTTAGE HILL CHRISTIAN  
S. 05 MOBILE CHRISTIAN  
S. 12 at St. Michael  
S. 18 at Orange Beach  
S. 26 ST. LUKE'S  
O. 03 at W.S. Neal  
O. 17 ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
O. 24 JACKSON  
O. 31 at Chickasaw

## SPANISH FORT

A. 22 FAIRHOPE  
A. 29 THEODORE  
S. 05 at Baldwin County  
S. 12 SARALAND  
S. 18 at Murphy  
S. 26 at Daphne  
O. 03 BLOUNT  
O. 10 at Gulf Shores  
O. 24 at McGill-Toolen  
O. 31 ST. PAUL'S

## ST. LUKE'S

A. 22 CHRISTIAN COLLEGIATE  
ACADEMY  
A. 29 MARENGO  
S. 05 at Washington County  
S. 12 CENTRAL HAYNEVILLE  
S. 19 at Bayshore Christian  
S. 26 at Satsuma  
O. 03 J.U. BLACKSHER  
O. 17 at Clarke County

O. 24 CHICKASAW  
O. 31 at Cottage Hill Christian

## ST. MICHAEL

A. 15 at Alma Bryant  
A. 22 BAYSIDE ACADEMY  
A. 29 at John Carroll Catholic  
S. 05 W.S. NEAL  
S. 12 SATSUMA  
S. 19 at Escambia County  
O. 03 at Jackson  
O. 10 MOBILE CHRISTIAN  
O. 16 PENSACOLA  
O. 24 at Orange Beach

O. 30 UMS-WRIGHT

## ST. PAUL'S

A. 22 at UMS-Wright  
A. 29 BALDWIN COUNTY  
S. 12 MURPHY  
S. 19 at Theodore  
S. 26 FAITH ACADEMY  
O. 03 GULF SHORES  
O. 10 at Saraland  
O. 17 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
O. 24 at Blount  
O. 31 at Spanish Fort

## THEODORE

A. 22 at Baker  
A. 29 at Spanish Fort  
S. 05 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
S. 12 at Baldwin County  
S. 19 ST. PAUL'S  
S. 26 FAIRHOPE  
O. 02 MURPHY  
O. 17 GULF SHORES  
O. 24 at Saraland  
O. 31 at Blount

## UMS-WRIGHT

A. 22 ST. PAUL'S  
A. 29 at LeFlore  
S. 05 B.C. RAIN  
S. 12 VIGOR  
S. 26 at T.R. Miller  
O. 03 CITRONELLE  
O. 10 at Williamson  
O. 17 ELBERTA  
O. 24 at Faith Academy  
O. 30 at St. Michael

## VIGOR

A. 23 BLOUNT  
A. 29 at Tuscaloosa County  
S. 05 LEFLORE  
S. 12 at UMS-Wright  
S. 19 at Citronelle  
O. 03 at Elberta  
O. 10 FAITH ACADEMY  
O. 17 at Williamson  
O. 24 at B.C. Rain  
O. 30 at Baker

## WILLIAMSON

A. 23 at Booker T. Washington (Fl.)  
A. 29 WAYNE COUNTY  
S. 04 ELBERTA  
S. 12 at Citronelle  
S. 19 B.C. RAIN  
S. 26 MURPHY  
O. 03 at Faith Academy  
O. 10 UMS-WRIGHT  
O. 17 VIGOR  
O. 24 at LeFlore

HIGH SCHOOL GAMES



like I'm not making a difference, this scripture helps me to push on a little further in the journey because I have to keep moving to reach that expected end...it ain't over 'til it's over.

**As Someone Who Understands the Intricacies of Being Both a Pastor's Kid and a Former First Lady, I Recognize the Depth and Demand of Ministry Life. What Have Been Some of Your Most Impactful Highs and Challenging Lows, and How Have they Strengthened Your Walk With God?**

The impactful highs have been when someone expresses their gratitude for my dedication in ministry and grateful for a word that I spoke into their lives. Challenging lows, well there have been a few, but I will explain them like this...when you have to minister God's truth regardless of what you are going through and you're constantly encouraging others when you need encouragement yourself. I draw great strength from the highs and lows because I am constantly reminded that God is the God of the mountains and the valleys.

**I was deeply moved by the "Empowered Women, Empower Women" Conference that you and your mother, Pastor Flora Day-Reiss—affectionately known as "Pastor MOM"—hosted in 2017. Could you speak to the importance of women uplifting one another, especially in seasons when we forget the power of sisterhood and support?**

"Empowered Women, Empower Women" was intended to be a movement. Revelation 12:11, signifies that believers triumph over evil not only through the blood of the Lamb, but also by sharing their personal experiences of God's work in their lives. It is my belief that whatever area we have victory in, we are empowered by that victory and now have the power to help others to be empowered and victorious in that same area, women and men alike. The world does enough of tearing us down, as believers we should build one another up... it's what God wants.

**Your mentorship initiatives in the Mobile County Public School System, especially through programs like Girls in Pumps & Pearls and Guys in Loafers & Ties, have left a lasting impression. Will we see these impactful programs return?**

This mentoring program is very dear to my heart as I founded this program in 2016 with the mission to build positive, strong and trusting relationships with youth through mentorship for preparation of leadership, along with college and career readiness. It is returning soon as I have reached out to some business men/women, Ministers and Pastors to come alongside me to breathe life back into this program. We are preparing for late fall of this year.

**And what continues to drive your commitment to shaping the next generation?**

What continues to drive me is my belief that the fostering of positive thinking through consistent positive reinforcement, yields positive attitudes of self-esteem. Therefore, mentorship is key. I further believe that anyone can achieve with help in building skills and with the provision of adequate support and resources. I desire to provide support and resources to our youth because they are our future.

**Your grace as a wife, woman of faith, and leader is truly inspiring. As I look forward to interviewing you and your husband, Dr. Ledell Cleveland Jr., later this year, I'd love to ask: how do you maintain a balance of being elegant, anointed, and confident in your femininity?**

I honestly can't explain it any better than saying that it is simply God's AMAZING GRACE. God's grace allows me to do things that are humanly impossible as I do them as unto the Lord.

**What encouragement would you offer to those still preparing for their future in love and purpose?**

My best advice is not to get ahead of God and stay focused. In all your ways acknowledge God and He will direct your path. Seek His Kingdom, His way of doing things and He will give you the desires of your heart.



**PRICHARD POLLING SITES**

The City of Prichard has Announced

**NEW POLLING LOCATIONS**

for the upcoming MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS  
**AUGUST 26, 2025**

- DISTRICT ONE:** **COLLINS-RHODES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
5110 Saint Stephens Road • Eight Mile, 36613
- DISTRICT TWO:** **BOX 1 - MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
505 Mt. Calvary Avenue. • Prichard, 36610
- DISTRICT TWO:** **BOX 2 - WHISTLER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
3102 Whistler Street • Whistler, 36610
- DISTRICT THREE:** **VIGOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
913 N. Wilson Avenue • Prichard, 36610
- DISTRICT FOUR:** **SUNLIGHT DISTRICT AUDITORIUM**  
809 Seminary Street • Prichard, 36610
- DISTRICT FIVE:** **PRICHARD SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER**  
2500 W. Main Street • Prichard, 36610

**CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION!**

GOOGLE: Check My Voter Registration Alabama  
GO TO: <https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov>.

Don't Be Surprised at the Polls - Make Sure You're Registered!



**GRANT BENEFITS PRICHARD ANIMAL SHELTER**

The City of Prichard received some big news according to Public Services Director TJ Pettway.

"We've been awarded a Disaster Response and Capacity Building Grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Thanks to this grant, we've purchased an enclosed trailer, stocked up on cleaning and safety supplies, and built out a mobile setup for a temporary shelter."

The gear will help the city prepare and respond faster during emergencies like hurricanes and keeping animals safe and cared for when it matters most.



# Passings



**Mosie Burks • 92**  
GOSPEL SINGER  
*Mississippi Mass Choir*



**Walter Scott • 81**  
SINGER  
*The Whispers*  
*And the Beat Goes On • Lady*



**Malcolm-Jamal Warner • 54**  
ACTOR/MUSICIAN  
*The Cosby Show • The Resident*  
**Drowned**



**S. Daniel Abraham • 100**  
MEDICAL INDUSTRY  
EXECUTIVE  
Founder of Slimfast



**Connie Francis • 87**  
SINGER  
*Everybody's Somebody's Fool*



**Rick Hurst • 79**  
ACTOR  
*The Dukes of Hazzard*  
*Steel Magnolias*



**Frank Layden • 93**  
NBA COACH  
Utah Jazz



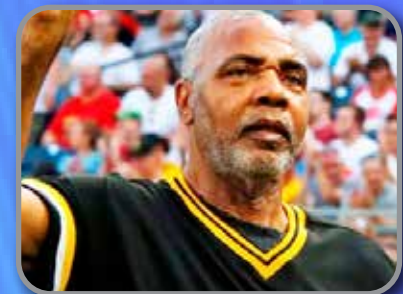
**Michael Madsen • 67**  
ACTOR  
*Kill Bill • Donnie Brasco*  
**Heart Failure**



**Jim Marshall • 87**  
NFL HALL OF FAMER  
Minnesota Vikings  
Purple People Eaters



**Bill Moyers • 91**  
TV JOURNALIST  
WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY  
**Prostate Cancer**



**Dave Parker • 74**  
MLB HALL OF FAMER  
Pittsburgh Pirates  
**Parkinson's Disease**



**Bobby Sherman • 81**  
SINGER  
*Little Woman*  
ACTOR  
*Here Comes The Bride*  
**Kidney Cancer**



**Jimmy Swaggart • 90**  
TV EVANGELIST  
Jimmy Swaggart Ministries  
**Cardiac Arrest**

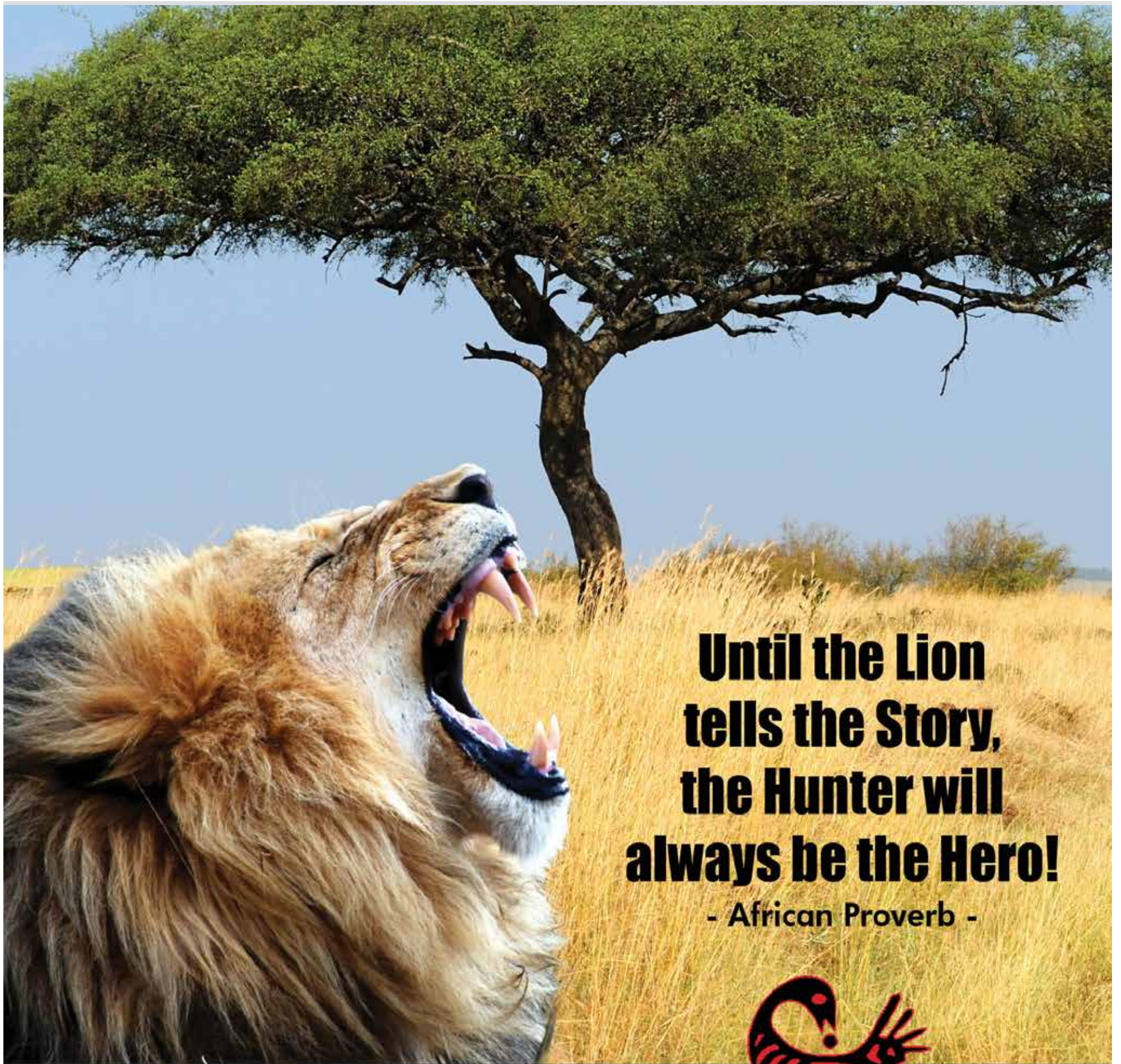


**Jewel Thais-Williams • 86**  
ACTIVIST  
First Black Female  
LGBT BAR OWNER



**Cavin Yarborough • 71**  
SINGER  
*Yarborough and Peoples*  
*Don't Stop the Music*  
**Heart Disease**





**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