



STEPPIN' OUT

THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & EMPOWERMENT GUIDE OF THE GULF COAST

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SEABREEZE JAZZ FESTIVAL®



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 each month 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.

Publisher Greg Cyprian
Director of Media/Marketing Lynn Ridley

STEPPIN' OUT welcomes your comments and suggestions regarding this publication.

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-and-

E-MAIL US...
steppinoutnews@aol.com

CONTRIBUTORS...



Arthur Mack
Featured Article:
THINKING OUTSIDE
OF THE BOX



Destinee Bolden
Featured Article:
FASHION HOT SPOT



Florence
Featured Article:
ASK FLO



Foodie and Friend
Featured Article:
FOODIE FINDS



Joanie Stiff-Love
Featured Article:
AFTER HOURS



Lisa Johnson
Featured Article:
EXPRESSIONS



Memphis Vaughan Jr
Featured Article:
TAKING MOBILE TO
THE NEXT LEVEL



Nathaniel Patterson
Featured Article:
MARKETING YOUR
WAY TO SUCCESS



Tanene Jackson
Featured Article:
TRANSITIONING BASICS

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REFLECTIONS

She Never Saw The Cake

Cindy glanced nervously at the clock on the kitchen wall. Five minutes before midnight.

"They should be home any time now," she thought as she put the finishing touches on the chocolate cake she was frosting. It was the first time in her 12 years she had tried to make a cake from scratch, and to be honest, it wasn't exactly an aesthetic triumph. The cake was . . . well, lumpy. And the frosting was bitter, as if she had run out of sugar or something.

Which, of course, she had.

And then there was the way the kitchen looked. Imagine a huge blender filled with all the ingredients for chocolate cake – including the requisite bowls, pans and utensils. Now imagine that the blender is turned on. High speed. With the lid off.

Do you get the idea?

But Cindy wasn't thinking about the mess. She had created something, a veritable phoenix of flour and sugar rising out of the kitchen clutter. She was anxious for her parents to return home from their date so she could present her anniversary gift to them. She turned off the kitchen lights and waited excitedly in the darkness. When at last she saw the flash of the car headlights, she positioned herself in the kitchen doorway. By the time she heard the key sliding into the front door, she was THIS CLOSE to exploding.

Her parents tried to slip in quietly, but Cindy would have none of that. She flipped on the lights dramatically and trumpeted: "Ta-daaa!" She gestured grandly toward the kitchen table, where a slightly off-balance two-layer chocolate cake awaited their inspection.

But her mother's eyes never made it all the way to the table.

"Just look at this mess!" she moaned. "How many times have I talked to you about cleaning up after yourself?"

"But Mom, I was only . . ."

"I should make you clean this up right now, but I'm too tired to stay up with you to make sure you get it done right," her mother said. "So you'll do it first thing in the morning."

"Honey," Cindy's father interjected gently, "take a look at the table."

"I know – it's a mess," his wife said coldly. "The whole kitchen is a disaster. I can't stand to look at it." She stormed up the stairs and into her room, slamming the door shut behind her.

For a few moments Cindy and her father stood silently, neither one knowing what to say. At last she looked up at him, her eyes moist and red. "She never saw the cake," she said.

Unfortunately, Cindy's mother isn't the only parent who suffers from Situational Timberrcular Glaucoma – the occasional inability to see the forest for the trees. From time to time we all allow ourselves to be blinded to issues of long-term significance by Stuff That Seems Awfully Important Right Now – but isn't. Muddy shoes, lost lunch money and messy kitchens are troublesome, and they deserve their place among life's frustrations. But what's a little mud – even on new carpet – compared to a child's self-esteem? Is a lost dollar more valuable than a youngster's emerging dignity? And while kitchen sanitation is important, is it worth the sacrifice of tender feelings and relationships?

I'm not saying that our children don't need to learn responsibility, or to occasionally suffer the painful consequences of bad choices. Those lessons are vital, and need to be carefully taught. But as parents we must never forget that we're not teaching lessons – we're teaching children. That means there are times when we need to see the mess in the kitchen.

And times when we only need to see the cake.

–Authored by Joseph Walker at ValueSpeak@msn.com. ♣

Women's Business Center Welcomes New Project Director

The Women's Business Center of South Alabama (WBCSA) is proud to announce Lora Michael as the new Project Director.

The WBCSA program provides networking opportunities, training and counseling for entrepreneurs seeking to start and grow their small businesses. The program serves a two county area in South Alabama. These counties include Mobile and Baldwin.

Lora has extensive training experience within the financial sector, has counseled and assisted many with loan and credit needs and has also served as a trainer for the WBCSA, including components of the Money Smart program. She has the highest level of certification for Management training, Business Development School I & II and is a Certified CU Credit Counselor. She has spent the last five years networking and creating relationships within our service area in South Alabama, focusing on business development.

Lora's experience also includes many years of being the Chief Executive Officer and President for a South Mississippi credit union. Further certifications and training include principals of Accounting & Finance and she has her educational background in Business Management and Marketing from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

"I have served on the WBC Board for almost five years and am excited to transition into the role of Project Director. I have a deep appreciation for South Alabama and all it has to offer. It is my pleasure to be a part of helping others achieve their goals and dreams and educating them how to better plan for their future personally and professionally," said Lora. "It's fun to plan events and network with these wonderful women and men of our community. Our office is staffed with very gifted women, plus we have a great Board of Directors. I feel very lucky to have this opportunity" she added.

You may learn more about Women's Business Center of South Alabama at www.wbcsa.com. If you have additional questions, please call (251)-660-2725. ♣



Lora Michael
PROJECT DIRECTOR

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AFTER HOURS



JOANIE STIFF-LOVE

A graduate of Birmingham-Southern College, Stiff-Love currently works for the City of Mobile and is active in Community Theater in the Mobile area. She loves all things southern, food, and the arts.

Send article suggestions to joanie.3564@yahoo.com.

Beginning the first weekend in April and running thru the next, Joe Jefferson Playhouse continues its production of Elton John's version of the opera, Aida. Telling the story of the capture of the beautiful, Ethiopian princess, Aida, by Radames, Egypt's Captain of the Guard, and their ill-fated love story. For more information, including tickets, go to www.joejeffersonplayers.com.

The Crescent gives us two movies this month. From April 1 through 9, see Woman in Gold. It is the true story of a Jewish woman, Maria Altman (played by Helen Mirren) who struggles 60 years after being driven from Vienna by the Nazis, to regain the heritage stolen from her as well as some measure of justice. Then on April 12 and 13, come enjoy the classic, silent film, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde as you never have before. The band, The Invisible Czars, known for fusing math-rock, classical music, lounge grooves, country shuffles and circus-y polka, has created an original score for this classic silent film. For more information on these and the Crescent, go to www.crescenttheater.com.

This month, there's a lot to see at the Saenger. April 11 the Mobile Symphony Orchestra gives us The Music of John Williams, known for his amazing movie scores. April 22, the band, Government Mule, the Southern rock jam band formed in 1994 as a side project of The Allman Brothers Band, present their take on rock. April 25, the MSO are back with the Music of the Rolling Stones, and April 28 the venue is host to the comedy of Bill Burr. For more info on each of these, go to www.mobilesaenger.com.

And just when you think nothing is going on at the Mobile Civic Center, the University of Alabama's Theater Department brings their performance of 42nd Street to us on April 9. For more information, go to www.ua.edu, or www.mobilecivicctr.com for tickets.

Finishing out the month of April, Mobile Theater Guild gives us the musical adaptation of the movie Steve Martin and Michael Cain starred in together, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. We again meet Freddy and Larry as they battle to be the main con man in the French Riviera by seeing who can con young heiress, Janet Colgate, out of \$50,000. Nominated for 10 Tonys in 2005, it is a must see for musical fans. For more information, go to their website, www.mobiletheaterguild.org.

If you know of upcoming performances, I'd love to know, too. Just drop me a line and I'll be happy to include them. ❖

Spring Break Book Bash

Want to do something fun with the kids during Spring Break Week? Come to the Daphne Public Library for fun story times, crafts, free food, entertainment and games!

Join them on Tuesday for the Lap Babies Storytime at 10:30am and on Wednesday for preschool stories and crafts at 2:00pm. On Thursday, April 9th, from 2- 4pm, they celebrate with their SPRING BREAK BOOK BASH! They will have hot dogs, snow cones, popcorn, games, prizes, books, balloon animals, and face painting. Frozen's Elsa, Five Rivers, the Daphne fire truck, and the D.A.R.E. Car will all be joining in!

Don't miss all the FREE fun for kids during Spring Break Week at the Daphne Public Library!

For more information contact Rhonda Moss at 621-2818 ext. 203 or Jami Weekley at 621-2818 ext. 209. ❖

Run for Alabama's Fallen Heroes

Alabama's Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc., will be hosting its Annual 5K Memorial Run/Walk for Alabama's Fallen Heroes on Saturday, May 16, 2015, at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park. Race begins promptly at 7:30am.

Each registrant will be running/walking with the name of one of Alabama's Fallen Heroes on their race bib. Register as an individual or register as a team. Awards: Top Male and Female Overall and Top Three Male and Female in Age Groups: (9 and under); (10-14), (15-19), (20-29), (30-39), (40-49), (50-59), (60-69), (70-79), and (80-99).

To pre-register by mail you may download an application at <https://bluestarsalutefallenheroes5k2015.eventbrite.com>. Applications are also available at McCoy Outdoor and Run-N-Tri in Mobile, and at Running Wild in Fairhope. Registration forms should be postmarked by May 09, or submitted on line before noon on May 14, or online (<https://bluestarsalutefallenheroes5k2015.eventbrite.com>) until 4:00 p.m. May 15. Race day registration will be open at Battleship Park from 6:10 a.m. until 7:10 a.m..

After the 5K Memorial Walk/Run, enjoy a day full of entertainment, fun, and food at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park where there will be a variety of activities for everyone, including children. Join us in honoring Alabama's military, veterans, and our fallen heroes. Many VSO's will be available for servicing our military and veterans. The day will conclude with a Gold Star Memorial Service honoring Alabama's Fallen Heroes.

The Blue Star Salute Foundation is a non-profit dedicated to honoring Alabama's military by Honoring Those Who Serve, Those Who Have Served, and Those Who Have Fallen In Service.

For more information, please visit our website at www.bluestarsalute.org and visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bluestar.salute. ❖

Free and Open to the Public

The Mobile Faith Community Campaign will host a local celebration to raise funds for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) – An Evening of Stars at Helena III, 281 St. Stephens Rd. on April 12 from 4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Evening of Stars, a free event, will include local artist performances, light refreshments, large movie screen (The Great Debaters), community donation presentations, local student honorees, fellowship, photo booth, free snacks, drumline presentations, viewing of national broadcast Evening of Stars, and other family friendly activities. Individuals who can't make the event are encouraged to send donations to PO Box 40562, Mobile, AL 36640 and/or purchase ads to be placed in the commemorative Book of Stars. One hundred percent of the proceeds support the scholarship fund.

To learn more, please contact Florance M. McElroy via email, Uncfmobile@gmail.com or call 251.432-6506. Additional information on this event can be found on Facebook – UNCF Mobile. ❖

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The 17th Annual Seabreeze Jazz Festival® returns to Panama City Beach with over 20 stellar performances of top national contemporary jazz talent April 22-26. The event has become an annual celebration for jazz-minded adults where the allure of great beaches, exciting shopping, world-class restaurants along with a plethora of activities like golf and fishing, all combine for a true vacation getaway. The event has been named “Top 10 Jazz Festival in the USA” by JazzIZ Magazine.

Artists to perform include multi-Grammy winners George Benson, David Sanborn, and Al Jarreau – along with chart-topping smooth jazz musicians Brian Culbertson, The Rippingtons featuring Russ Freeman, Euge Groove, BwB featuring Norman Brown, Kirk Whalum, and Rick Braun, Down To The Bone, The Sax Pack featuring Jeff Kashiwa, Steve Cole, and Kim Waters, Mindi Abair and the Boneshakers, Ken Ford, Acoustic Alchemy, Jazz Funk Soul featuring Chuck Loeb, Jeff Lorber, and Everette Harp, Chris Standring, Eric Darius, Four 80 East, Matt Marshak, Marcus Anderson, Josh Vietti, The Urban Jazz Coalition featuring Althea Rene, Rob Tardik, and Seabreeze Rising Star performer Ryan Montano.

Main performances will take place at the Aaron Beasant Park Amphitheater adjacent to Pier Park, with nightly After-Party All-Star Jam Shows at two venues at adjacent Pier Park. To further showcase the beauty of Panama City Beach, a Dinner and Lunch Smooth Jazz Cruise aboard “The Solaris” dinner yacht is set departing the Lighthouse Marina cruising picturesque St. Andrews Bay—each with a live jazz performance on board.

The Seabreeze Jazz Festival® will make history in 2015 as the first event on the Gulf Coast to implement a new innovative RFID armband system from Intellitix for both entry and all festival purchases, essentially making the entire event both “ticketless” and “cashless”.

For the Seabreeze Jazz Festival, even these cool innovative armbands will take on a jazz theme as festival organizers will be calling them “JazzBands”. The imbedded RFID chip inside the armband will not only be the patron’s ticket for entry into the event through an electronic portal, but also their wallet for all purchases inside the venue. Attendees can either “load” funds via their credit card in advance of the event online, or on site with credit or cash at several jazz festival “Top Up” stations throughout the event. All it takes is a quick swipe for any purchase in front of a tablet-size screen, and fans are back to the music and smooth jazz fun, with easy access to their “JazzBand” account via their smartphone. No need to worry about losing cash or credit cards with Intellitix’s exciting new system for fast entry and quick purchasing, dramatically reducing time spent at entry gates and in queue lines for merchandise, food, and beverages. Any unspent funds on the wristbands are refunded back to the user’s credit card immediately following the event, and the “JazzBand” simply becomes an event souvenir.

Tickets are available for single and multi-day admission. Thursday only tickets are \$90 each, Friday only tickets are \$100 each, Saturday only tickets are \$120 each, and Sunday only tickets are \$100 each. Patrons save money on multi-day tickets with a Weekend Pass good for Friday-Sunday priced at \$200, and the all-inclusive Four Day Pass \$250 each for all performances Thursday through Sunday at the main stage. In addition, a new reserved section called Gold Reserve is available for 2015. Gold Reserved seating includes on-site parking, early entry, fixed reserved seating behind the VIP section, dedicated air-conditioned restrooms, and four beverages per day. The Four Day Gold Reserve ticket is \$450 each and limited. VIP Tickets and VIP Tables sold out for the event last summer.

(continued on Page 15... see SEABREEZE)



LOCAL FLAVA

Arts

JOE JEFFERSON PLAYERS will present the musical "Aida," Music by Elton John, lyrics by Tim Rice, and book by Linda Woolverton, Robert Falls, and David Henry Hwang. Directed by local award-winning director, Cathy Boulter. Show Runs March 27th - April 12th, 2015 for a total of 9 Performances. The Joe Jefferson Playhouse, 11 S. Carlen St., Mobile 36606

COMMUNITY NEWS

PENELOPE HOUSE

- 8K By the Bay Run/Walk-2 Mile Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk, Saturday, April 11. 2-Mile Start: 8:00 AM, Fun Run Start: 9:15 AM. Benefits: Penelope House-Shelter and Advocacy for Domestic Violence Victims and the Sheriff Foundation. Location: Arlington Park on Broad St and Brookley Aeroplex
- The 11th Annual Hats and Pearls Luncheon will be held April 16th at 11:30am at The Grounds- luncheon, fashion show, hat contest, and more! \$60 per person/\$550 for table of ten. Call 251-342-2809 for tickets. All proceeds benefit Penelope House.

QUILTER'S GUILD - The Azalea City Quilters' Guild, Inc. will present its biennial Quilt Show April 17-18 at the Mobile Civic Center Expo Hall. Over 300 spectacular quilts will be on exhibit. Antique quilts, modern quilts, Merchants Mall, Chinese Auction, On-going workshops and classes, Opportunity Quilt, Quilt Appraisals by a National Certified Appraiser, and Boutique.

Mobile Library News

CHESS CLUBS

- Monday, April 6, 4 - 5 p.m., Ages 9 - 17 Years. West Regional Branch, 5555 Grelot Road. Come enjoy the fun! Learn to play chess or improve your skills. For more information, call the Children's Department at 340-8571.
- Tuesday, April 7, 4-5 p.m., Ages 6 and Above. Ben May Main Library, 701 Government Street. Beginners and experienced players are welcome. Registration is not required, but encouraged. For more information, call the Ben May Main Library Children's Department at 208-7086.
- Wednesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 3:30 p.m., Ages 8 and Above. Toulminville Branch, 601 Stanton Rd. Mr. Ronald Reece will instruct children on how to play the game of chess. For more information, call 438-7075.
- Thursdays, April 2, 16, 23 & 30, 4 p.m., Ages - 7 to 12. Semmes Branch, 9150 Moffett Road. Learn to play Chess! Beginners and experienced players are welcome. For more information, call 645-6840.

PIZZA & A MOVIE TEEN BOOK CLUB - Thursday, April 2, 5:30 p.m., Moorer/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Ave. Enjoy some pizza while watching the movie, Fahrenheit 451. Following the film showing, we will discuss the book written by Ray Bradbury. For more information, please call 470-7770 or email eenglish@mplonline.org.

CELEBRATE EASTER! - Thursday, April 2, 6 p.m., Ages 3 - 6. Saraland Public Library, 111 Saraland Loop. It's a celebration of all things Easter - we will read Easter books, make Easter baskets and enjoy an egg hunt in the Library. Bring your cameras and take a picture with special guest, Peter Rabbit! Groups must register. For more information or to register, please call 675-2879.

EXTRAVAGANT READERS BOOK CLUB - Saturday, April 4, 3 p.m., Toulminville Branch, 601 Stanton Rd. Topics of discussion are Gray Mountain by John Grisham and The Color of Water by James McBride. For more information, please call 438-7075.

EBONY MOMENTS BOOK CLUB - Thursday, April 9, 6 p.m., West Regional Branch, 5555 Grelot Rd. Ebony Moments is a book discussion designed to increase the awareness of African-American authors, both past and present, and to promote the love of reading for all. This month's topic of discussion is The Replacement Wife by Tiffany Warren. For more information, contact Betty Kidd at 470-7766.

FAMILY FEATURE FILM - Thursday, April 9, 4 p.m., Semmes Branch, 9150 Moffett Road.



BOXTROLLS - Subterranean Trolls raise an orphaned boy, who helps them fight back against an evil exterminator and make peace with the fearful residents of an upper-crust Victorian-era town known for its world-class cheeses. The film runs 100 minutes and is rated PG. For more information, call 645-6840.

FAMILY FEATURE FILM - Monday, April 13, 5:30 p.m., Toulminville Branch, 601 Stanton Rd. Maleficent-The film runs 97 minutes and is PG. For more information, please call 438-7075.

COZY BOOK CLUB - Tuesday, April 14, 6 p.m., Moorer/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Ave. Calling all mystery lovers! This month's topic of discussion is The Impersonator by Mary Miley. For more information, please call Kay at 470-7770.

A PAGE IN TIME - Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m., West Regional Branch, 5555 Grelot Road. If you love Historical Fiction this book club is for you. This month's topic of discussion is My Name is Resolute by Nancy E. Turner. For more information, please call Michele at 340-8561.

MATINEE @ THE MAIN - Thursday, April 16, 1 p.m., Bernheim Hall at the Ben May Main Library, 701 Government Street. The Theory of Everything Enrolled as a graduate student at Cambridge, Stephen Hawking establishes himself as one of the leading minds of his generation, and begins to win the heart of Jane. After one of his earliest breakthroughs, Hawking is diagnosed with ALS, and he becomes less and less able to control his own body. With the loyal Jane at his side, he continues his work. However, as the years progress, Jane starts to feel more like a nurse than a wife, and Hawking begins to have feelings for a woman who is hired to care for him. The film runs 123 minutes and is rated PG-13. For more information, call 208-7097.

BAYSIDE BOOK CLUB - Thursday, April 16, 6 p.m., Parkway Branch, 1924-B Dauphin Island Parkway. This month's topic of discussion is The Complete Stories of Truman Capote/Introduction by Reynolds Price. For more information, please call Betty Fowler at 476-2600 or 208-7097.

(continued on Page 18, See FLAVA)

STEPPIN' OUT ON BOOKS



This feature represents collaboration between Steppin' Out, Timbooktu, the Mobile Public Library, and the Ebony Moments Book Club. It's designed to give local, regional, and national African American authors a place to have their books reviewed and introduced to this market. This feature

devotes two columns for book reviews; Ebony Moments features reviews from the library's book club list and "What I'm Reading Now" features reviews from submissions by TimBookTu and local authors. Please Note: "What I'm Reading Now" is not affiliated with the Mobile Public Library.

Forver an Ex

by Victoria Christopher Murray

Victoria Christopher Murray reunites readers with three unforgettable characters from the best-selling novel *The Ex Files*. *Forever an Ex: A Novel* takes place eight years later in Los Angeles. Sheridan, Kendall, and Asia an unlikely trio were bought together seven years earlier to form a church prayer support group.

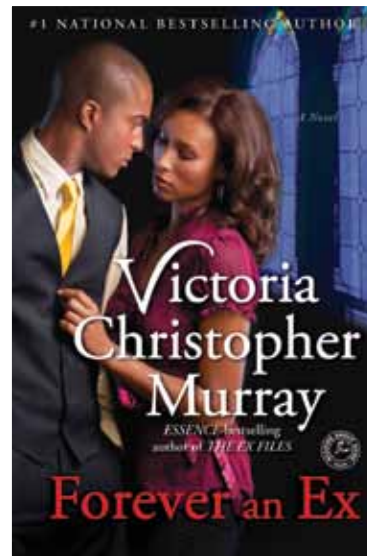
These three women have formed an unbreakable friendship bond and have helped each other overcome loss and heartbreak.

In the book, *Forever an Ex*, the women are back together dealing with issues due to their Exes returning in their lives. Sheridan has remarried after her ex-husband left her for a man. Sheridan's old wounds resurface when her ex-husband reappears in her life with his new fiancée, which happens to be a woman. Kendall's ex-husband is now married to her sister, Sabrina. Kendall has refused to associate with either one of them in last seven years, but is forced to reunite with Sabrina when their father is diagnosed with cancer. Asia was heartbroken when her married ex-boyfriend who was a former LA Laker basketball player chose to remain with his wife. She has attempted to move on with her life, but the two share a kiss at during the Christmas holiday which now has Asia wondering if there is hope for them to get back together. They have worked so hard to rebuild their lives after going through tragedies and breakup with the Exes. But together they have vowed to help each other through with prayer and support.

Victoria Christopher Murray did it again! I enjoyed this book and loved the characters. The sequel was a page turner with unexpected twists and story lines. It is definitely a must read. ♣

UP NEXT:

The Replacement Wife by Tiffany Warren



REVIEWED BY
Kim P. Leslie

KenKay: Hair I Am

by Kandra Ferguson

The book, "KenKay: Hair I Am" presents the story of a little girl who has trouble accepting her hair in its natural state and as a result, accepting herself. At the beginning of the book, we see a shy little girl who constantly feels out of place because her hair does not look like everyone else. However, KenKay's situation changes when her teacher becomes ill and a substitute teacher, Ms. Wright, with natural hair teaches KenKay's class. Ms. Wright doesn't only show KenKay that she is still beautiful despite the texture of her hair but Ms. Wright also gave KenKay a voice. As a result of the encounter with Ms. Wright, KenKay becomes more confident about her appearance. We even learn that KenKay starts a club for little girls with "curly hair" within her own hair story. This story is well-written and illustrated. This book tells a big story of accepting one's self and embracing the uniqueness that truly defines each person. Beautifully done.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After switching careers from Master Level Psychology to owner of a popular hair salon, Kandra Ferguson was surprised to find that her former experience would prove more than useful. With fewer women of color getting their hair chemically straightened, Kandra noticed the hard time many were having bridging the disconnect between themselves and their hair. Since the same could be said for young girls of color, she decided to address the growing issue through a powerful and transformative new children's picture book. 'KenKay: Hair I Am' urges girls to accept their God-given beauty and instead work on developing their good character and integrity. ♣



REVIEWED BY
Betty Kidd

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Our 17th year of Seabreeze Jazz Festivals! This year welcomes Grammy winners George Benson, Al Jarreau, David Sanborn, and Norman Brown – and the Classic Smooth Jazz Artists, The Rippingtons featuring Russ Freeman, Acoustic Alchemy... Brian Culbertson, BWB featuring Kirk Whalum, and Rick Braun, Mindi Abair and the Boneshakers, Down To The Bone, Euge Groove, Althea Rene, The Sax Pack 10th Anniversary Show featuring Kim Waters, Jeff Kashiwa, and Steve Cole, Jazz Funk Soul featuring Chuck Loeb, Jeff Lorber, and Everette Harp, Ken Ford, Eric Darius, Four 80 East, Chris Standing, Josh Vietti (Jazz, Pop, Hip Hop Violinist), Matt Marshak, Marcus Anderson, Urban Jazz Coalition, Ryan Montano, Rob Tardik and others.

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SMOOTH-JAZZ



TRANSITIONING BASICS

Tanene Jackson—Owner of Locs of Soul (www.locsofsoul.com), a natural hair salon and barber shop in Mobile, Al. She is also the organizer to the Mobile Natural Hair and Wellness Expo. You can be reach Tanene via Facebook... Locs of Soul and/or email... curiosity4_u@yahoo.com.



Tanene Jackson
LOCS OF SOUL

Keeping Life Simple While Transitioning

As your perception of natural hair have you wandering what you are doing? Are you not feeling “free” in your new look? Are you going broke trying to keep up with the latest hair product?

Transitioning to natural doesn’t have to be a “keeping up with the Joneses” moment. Transitioning is about your mental and spiritual perception, not just your physical state.

Change is inevitable in everything in life. So embracing something “new”, like natural hair fuels patience.

First of all seek out a support system BEFORE you completely decide to transition. Gather your information from books, stylists (preferably those who work with natural hair), others that are natural, and the Internet. There is a plethora of information out there.

Styling can be a challenge at first but don’t give up! Making a decision of how you want to wear your hair is the key. There is ALWAYS an option; Braids, afros, twists, lots (dreadlocs), roller sets, wigs, and / or weaves...There is always an option.

Finding products that work is a matter of understanding that you don’t need every product on the market to achieve a look. The main concern is moisture. If your hair is lacking moisture you will experience breakage and excessive shedding. Alcohol dries your hair, so try to avoid products that have alcohol in them (i.e. gels, oil sheen, etc.).

If you find yourself buying everything on the shelf, try samples of the product. Besides purchasing products, you can inquire to a company for samples or ask a friend (if she’s a product junkie).

The key is to keep your regimen simple. Don’t “fuss” with your hair a lot (low maintenance styles work well), keep it moisturized, trimmed, and find a product that works for YOU.

Walla! Welcome to the world of natural... Enjoy!

For further information, call Locs of Soul at 251-289-1186 or 240-515-4388. ♣

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SEABREEZE JAZZ FESTIVAL®

Performance Schedule

MAIN STAGE

THURSDAY APRIL 23—GATES OPEN @ 3:00 PM

5:00 pm.....Urban Jazz Coalition featuring Althea Rene
6:30 pm.....The Rippingtons featuring Russ Freeman
8:30 pm.....Euge Groove

FRIDAY APRIL 24 – GATES OPEN @ 3:00 PM

5:00 pm.....Down To The Bone
6:30 pm.....Ken Ford
8:30 pm.....George Benson

SATURDAY APRIL 25 – GATES @ 8:00 AM

9:30 am.....Rob Tardik
11:00 amEric Darius
12:30 pmAcoustic Alchemy
4:30 pm.....Brian Culbertson
6:30 pm.....Al Jarreau
8:30 pm.....BwB featuring Norman Brown, Kirk Whalum, and Rick Braun

SUNDAY APRIL 26 – GATES @ 8:00 AM

9:30 am.....Ryan Montano (Seabreeze Rising Star)
11:00 am.....The Seabreeze Groove Project feat. Four 80 East, Matt Marshak, and Marcus Anderson
12:30 pmChris Standring
2:30 pm.....Mindi Abair and the Boneshakers
4:30 pm.....Jazz Funk Soul featuring Chuck Loeb, Jeff Lorber, and Everette Harp
6:30 pm.....Josh Vietti
8:30 pm.....David Sanborn
10:30pm FREE All-Star After Party at Jimmy Buffet’s Margaritaville at Pier Park

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by Destinee Bolden



Fashion hot spot

Liquid Lipstick Revolution

Liquid lipsticks are taking the beauty world by a full-fledged storm. There have never been so many people on edge about lipsticks until now. Every company seems to be branching out to create these amazing formulas of liquid to matte. I used to be a frequent eye-shadow consumer, but that quickly changed when the liquid lippies began their debut. Now my lipstick collection is expanding and my eye shadow collection is diminishing. Not to say I've completely cut shadows out of the budget, my heart just longs for other things now.

Anastasia Beverly Hills, Kat Von D, and Too faced are the top 3 cosmetic brands for liquid lips at the moment. Anastasia Beverly Hills is fairly new to the world of lipstick but she's already managed to blow every body's mind. Anastasia's most popular shade? Pure Hollywood. Pure Hollywood is the perfect nude for any complexion. As a matter of fact, the brand in general has a wide range of colors that can satisfy the cravings of deep, fair, and medium skin tones. They have a collection that consists of 20 shades; it's a rare and beautiful thing when companies take into consideration the various types of skin textures that are out in the world. Not one person is the same so why make makeup in all similar shades? On top of the wide variety of colors, they also have a very unique formula. It's a definite matte lipstick yet it doesn't show any sign of drying. A lot of liquid lipsticks can have that drying effect (to make it last longer on the lips).

Kat Von D liquid lipstick A.K.A the sold out liquid lippie. This liquid lipstick is so amazing it sells out as soon as it hit stores- whether it be online or in a local shop. People actually go crazy when they can't manage to get their hands on "Lolita"- a dusty mauve pink. Vampira is also quite a hit; it's the ideal deep red/brown lipstick that looks great on every skin tone. Some of the lipsticks in the KVD collection can be drying, while others are hydrating. Regardless of them being slightly drying, the color selection is unbeatable. Never have I seen so many unique and stellar colors. Kat von D is truly an artist. Too Faced has a good mixture of nudes and bright colors, and then one extremely bold color. They recently revamped their collection, the new colors include: Melted Strawberry, Melted Fig, Melted Chihuahua, Melted Villain, and Melted Jelly donut. Too faced is a hit nine times out of ten and these melted lippies definitely knocked the ball out of the park. Melted Villain is the most unique purple I've ever come across, it's a deep eggplant color, another color that can work with any skin tone. This is that "go home or go bold" color. Color fanatics will go crazy over "Melted Strawberry" which is the ultimate summer/spring color. If you're more of a subtle liquid lippie then "Melted Nude" is the way to go.

Liquid Lipsticks are probably the best thing to happen to the beauty world. It's probably the best thing since sliced bread. I know many people that have vowed never to go back to regular lipsticks. Once you go liquid can you ever truly go back? ♣

INSIDE EDUCATION

WITH MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



WRITTEN BY...
MARCIE MCNEAL
Assistant Communications Supervisor
Office of Communications
MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



A New School Provides For The Community, Recognizes Hometown Pioneers



The Trinity Gardens community will soon be home to a new, state-of-the-art school. Combining the present Brazier Elementary and Chastang Middle will set in motion a future Fournier-Chastang K-8 school.

Featuring twenty-seven classrooms for students in kindergarten through the eighth grade, the two-story, 93,770-square-foot building will also house specialty rooms such as a media center with adjacent reading room, art classroom, music/vocal/dance classroom, an elementary science demonstration classroom, an elementary computer laboratory, middle school biology laboratory, middle school chemistry laboratory, middle school computer laboratory, vocational laboratory, exploratory laboratory, small group rooms for speech, life skills, and exceptional ed., support areas, administration suite, health room, gymnasium (400-seat capacity), dining (272-seat capacity), kitchen and the now state required tornado shelter (6,633 SF).

The building will be built to face Interstate 65, giving a vision of dignity. An intention the district's School Board Commissioner Dr. Reginald Crenshaw (District 3), the Mobile County Public School Board Members and Superintendent, Martha Peek had in mind for the community-at-large. "Mobile County Public Schools is committed to Fournier-Chastang being a flagship school and point of pride in the community," Peek said.

Another point of pride will be the namesake of the new school. Mrs. Hazel Fournier, esteemed retired educator, became a teacher in 1951 then worked through the Mobile County Public Schools as an attendance officer and an assistant superintendent. She was elected to serve as a school board commissioner for eighteen years. Always a champion for education, she testified about integration before the U.S. House of Representatives and helped establish the magnet schools in Mobile County.

Mrs. Elizabeth Chastang was instrumental in getting the first public school built in the Trinity Gardens Community. She opened a private school in 1945 with twenty students at 25 cents per child. In 1950 the Mobile County Public Schools replaced the building with 18 classrooms, an all-purpose room and named Mrs. Chastang teaching principal. She continued her career in education as an elementary teacher at Brazier Elementary. The two pass on a legacy of leadership and the value of education. "I am honored," said Hazel Fournier, during a recent groundbreaking ceremony, "I wish for every child that comes into this school to keep on learning even after they leave here."

Mobile County Public Schools Facilities department along with architects Allred Architectural Group estimate completion of the school by the fall of 2016 or January 2017. ♣

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Mobile County Public School System
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The Mobile County Public School System Television Network (MCPSS TV Network) is an educational channel operated by the Mobile County Public School System. The MCPSS TV Network produces educational, instructional and community interest programs which can be viewed on AT&T U-Verse, Comcast Cable, Mediacom Cable and on the web at MCPSS.TV.

It is our goal to inform our parents and the Mobile, AL community about the students, programs, and services within the Mobile County Public Schools and to provide enhanced learning opportunities for our schools and community.

The MCPSS TV Network studio is fully equipped to meet the fast changing communication needs of the Mobile county area. Our production facility provides field, studio, and live video production; as well as videoconferencing, event streaming and television productions. Our studio also provides professional video production services to members of the nonprofit community, allowing them a savings between 30-70% off their video production services.

JAMS PLUS MEDIA

Mobile AeroFest

MARCH 20-21 • Brookley Aeroplex

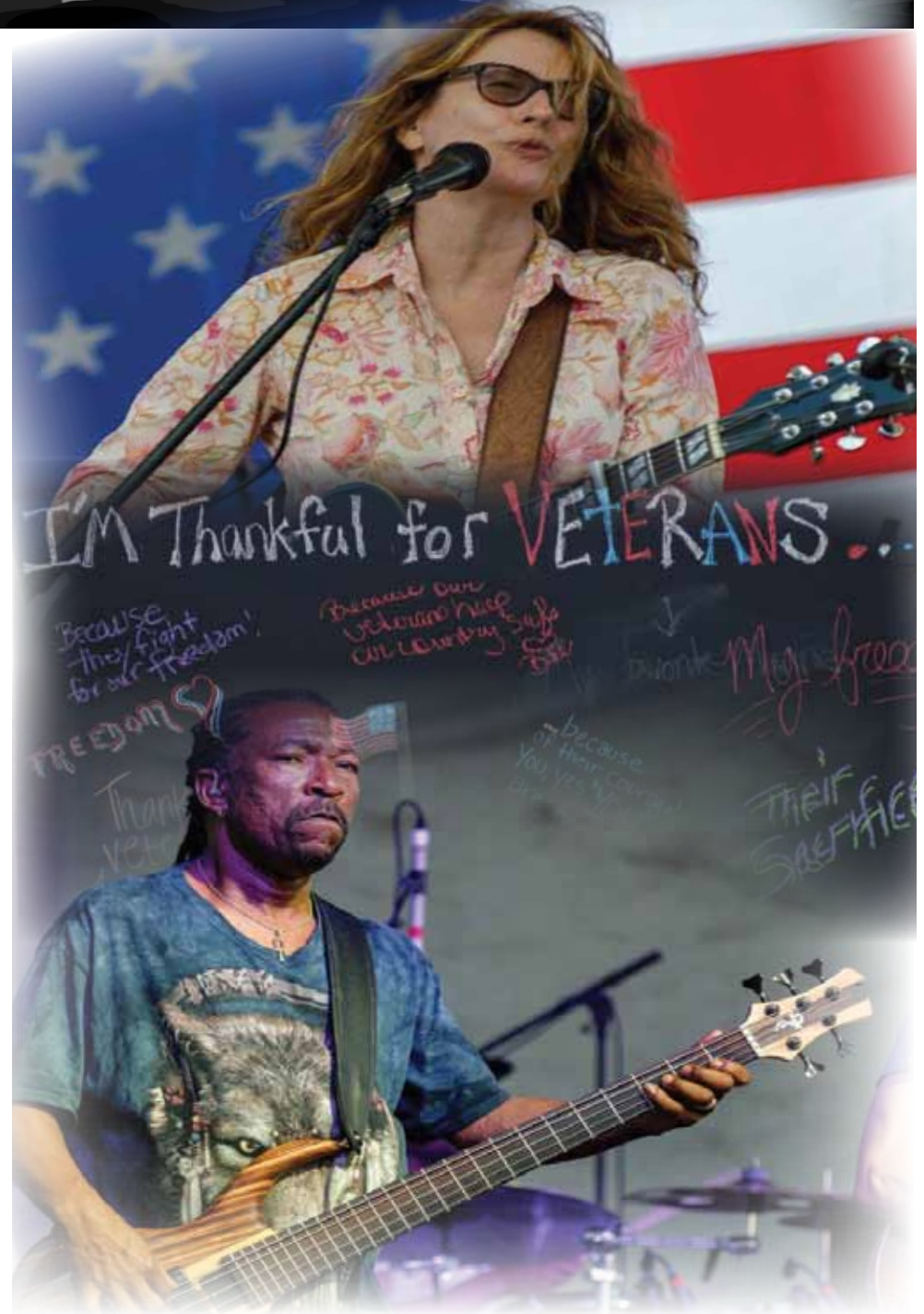
Written by Rosemary A.W. Roberts

Every music enthusiast loves a great music festival, as the chance to see multiple favorite bands is coupled with the opportunity to check out intriguing unfamiliar bands, all in the span of one location and weekend. With the addition of a visual arts element and a culinary arts element, a festival becomes a multi-sensory experience that invigorates the spirit. If you then mix in a bit of physical activity and sports exercise, the mind-body connection is complete. And when the unifying theme of the weekend is honoring our nation's Veterans and Wounded Warriors, now you're holding a celebration "For All The Right Reasons".

Introducing the inaugural Mobile AeroFest, a multi-faceted festival event that is unique in its mission and its offerings. The two-day festival celebrating the true heroes of our nation was held on the grounds of Brookley Aeroplex, the fully functional general aviation airport in the industrial complex of Mobile which will soon include a new Airbus assembly plant. The massive grounds easily accommodated four music stages, plenty of space for Arts & Crafts displays, a CrossFit challenge course, several food trucks in addition to standard festival food vendors, and a Kids' Zone. There was an Army medical/surgical tent set up that you could walk through to get a demonstration of what injured soldiers encounter on the battlefield. Inside one of the hangars was a Medal of Honor Exhibit of Valor, an exhibition of Hero Games with adapted sports that accommodate disabled athletes, and a career and education expo to help Veterans network future opportunities. A HERO Foundation www.aherousa.com was raffling off a chopper, while helping raise awareness of the plight so many Veterans face after returning from war; since 9/11/2001 there have been over 6,000 warriors killed in combat, and a staggering 90,000 tragically lost to suicide. Our service men and women sacrifice so much defending our freedom, and it was inspirational to have Mobile AeroFest provide a venue to celebrate them and thank them for their service.

And what a way to celebrate! The music lineup was absolutely phenomenal throughout, with local and national acts putting forth superb performances sure to please a wide variety of musical tastes. Friday afternoon was sunny and breezy and included Mobile's beloved Lisa Mills with her gorgeous voice, Hotel Oscar rockin' out righteously, the Soul Rebels from New Orleans with their big horns and huge sound, and Rosco Bandana bringing cool styles and tunes from Gulfport, MS. Even though the sun began to set, the main stage absolutely heated up when Karl Denson's Tiny Universe came on. Looking sharp in their suits, they started things right with Jimi Hendrix's "Power To Love", and kept the intensity and musicianship high through their set. The new tunes

(continued on Page 13... see **AEROFEST**)



REVIEWS • REVIEWS

JAMS PLUS MEDIA



AEROFEST (continued from Page 12)

“Monkstrap” and “When I Get Home” were awesome, with blistering guitars, and Karl Denson showing his prowess with both saxophone and flute. Hearing the band nail Traffic’s fun instrumental “Glad” was a treat that had everyone dancing and smiling.

Next up was New Orleans powerhouse funk masters Dumpstaphunk doing what they do best, inciting a groovy dance party, opening with “In This World” and bringing out the horn section from Naughty Professor for “I Know You Know”. Chicago-based band The Heard earned rave reviews, and Mobile fan favorite Ryan Balthrop and Friends were soulful and fun, with the giant American Flag a perfect backdrop for these good ol’ American rockers. Robert Randolph and the Family Band gave a lively performance and kept the party vibe going as the night moved on. Friday night headliners Dawes gave their all on the main stage, with pristine sound and rousing stage presence. The bonus was realizing that Duane Betts of Allman Brothers Band legacy (his father is Dickey Betts) was making his debut guitar performance with Dawes; he sounded right at home with their vintage-sounding folk rock.

AeroFest endeavored to establish a distinctive persona with two huge athletic events spanning Friday night and Saturday morning. With great excitement, Friday night featured a Titan FC Mixed Martial Arts championship battle, with fourteen bouts, including four CBS televised title fights. The fight cage was set up in one of the hangars, and a sizeable crowd assembled to watch the fighters compete under the bright lights. On Saturday morning, bicycle enthusiasts of different skill and ability levels participated in the Independence Ride, celebrating the freedom to ride with four different length courses. Riders who were in for the long haul began in Bayou La Batre, AL for a 48-mile or 38-mile trek; there were also an 18-mile and 12-mile journey available; all of the rides ended at Mobile Aeroplex on the grounds of the festival. The Independence Fund www.independencefund.org helped put the event together, allowing Veterans and civilians the chance to ride like the wind.

The music continued on Saturday with a full lineup of bands catering to all. Lee Baines and the Glory Fires brought some mighty hard rock to the party, and New York-based Steve Gunn provided a lyrical style of danceable rock that all enjoyed. New Orleans dance trancers Gravity A clearly have an electronica base, but it’s their jazz element that sets them in a deliciously different groove. Local Mobile blues rockers Johnny No are high energy thrillers, and Matthew Curry’s set was hard rockin’ good time. A really special treat was seeing renowned actor and talented bass player Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band! Gary Sinise has been a steadfast supporter of our nation’s service men and women for numerous years, and his Foundation www.garysinisefoundation.org helped sponsor AeroFest. The Lt. Dan Band is a group of talented musicians and singers who fill the stage with lively renditions of a wide variety of great songs. From Christopher Cross’s “Ride Like The Wind” to big-band swinging “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy”, from Stevie Wonder to Michael Jackson, and a smoldering

(continued on Page 20... see AEROFEST)

REVIEWS • REVIEWS

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\$1.4 Billion Dollar Hip Replacement Settlement Announced

Drug and medical device manufacturers have a duty to notify their customers/patients of any side effects or defects caused by the use of their products. This duty continues even after the drug or device has completed clinical trials and received approval from the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to be distributed. When a manufacturer learns of a side effect or defect, it has a responsibility to notify physicians and patients, immediately, so to protect the safety of the public. If a manufacturer fails to properly warn of a side effect or defect and, as a result, patient suffers an injury, a lawsuit can be brought against the drug or medical device manufacturer for compensation.

Failure to warn claims against drug and medical device manufactures have evolved into a very complex area of law, an area commonly referred to as Mass Tort Law. While victims share a common injury or damage, the victims are often spread out over a diverse geographic area. As a result, thousands of lawsuits are often filed in state and federal courthouses throughout the country. To coordinate or centralize the handling of the pretrial proceedings in the federal cases, often the manufacturer and/or a lawyer(s) representing the victims will request the United States Judicial Panel on Multi-district Litigation (MDL) transfer the cases to one federal court. By statute, the MDL panel's job is to 1) determine whether the cases involve one or more common questions of fact such that the actions should be transferred to one federal district for coordinated pre-trial proceedings; 2) select the judge or judges and court assigned to conduct such proceedings; and 3) appoint a victim's/plaintiff's steering committee, a committee of plaintiff lawyers set-up to coordinate the pre-trial proceedings. Typically, the federal court assigned will not, only, oversee the pre-trial proceedings, but will, also, oversee "bellwether trials." In these trials, the judge and parties will select a representative sample of cases, usually between five (5) to ten (10), that are fully prepared and tried to a jury. Ultimately, the goal of these bellwether trials is to provide the parties a good indication as to what will happen in future cases and assist with settlement discussions. Those cases not filed in the federal system, but within a state court's system, are coordinated similarly to those in the federal system. In fact, the state court judge assigned to the drug or device defect cases will often coordinate the scheduling of pre-trial proceedings with the federal judge assigned the cases by the MDL.

The current hip replacement litigation is a real world example of this multi-jurisdictional legal process. In July, 2012, Stryker, the manufacturer of Rejuvenate and ABG II metal hip devices, announced the metal hip devices were to be pulled from the market as a result of metal corrosion and other substantial defects requiring revision surgeries. In the months leading up to this announcement and following, over a thousand lawsuits were filed on behalf of victims in New Jersey state court (the corporate headquarters of Stryker is located in New Jersey) and federal courts throughout the country. **Ultimately, the MDL panel met and chose the U.S. District Court of Minnesota as the court to assist with the pre-trial proceedings and appointed a plaintiff's steering committee (PSC). From there, the federal court in**

(continued on Page 23... see **SETTLEMENT**)

Knox Boteler is a partner in the law firm of Boteler, Finley & Wolfe. The firm assists those injured as a result of accidents, defective products, or other wrongful behavior. If you have any questions related to the Stryker hip replacement settlement, please contact Knox Boteler at knox@bfw-lawyers.com or 251-433-7766. Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct requires the following disclosure: No representation is made that the quality of legal service to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services provided by other lawyers.

Taking Mobile To The Next Level



MEMPHIS VAUGHAN JR.

A native Mobilian and editor of literary website, TimBookTu.com

Feedback can be sent to: mempv57@gmail.com

Revive the Hood

When the word “hood” is mentioned these days, it stirs up negative connotations of crime, drugs and lazy uneducated minorities. Let’s be honest, how many of us think of the hood as the location of thriving, crime-free and non-ethnic places to live? Yet, the word hood is just a shortened version of neighborhood which is the place in which most of us live. If you really look closer at the hood, you will find hard-working people trying to make the best of their situation. They may live in the hood but they don’t always have a “hood” mentality.

My heritage goes back to the hood that is located along “the Avenue.” Davis Avenue was the heart of the black business district due to the segregated society that existed in the South and many parts of America. My grandparent’s home on Pearl Street was a key part of my childhood and my siblings and I stayed there on many summers visits from Detroit. So, I have this connection with that particular hood which was the location of many of the leading black citizens of Mobile up until the 70s. I grew up in another hood, Whistler, and I turned out well if I must say so myself.

Today, the Avenue, now known as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, is a former shell of itself. There are only a few prominent structures still standing that serve as a reminder of the Avenue’s former glory as the heart of black Mobile. Central High School, the Dave Patton House, the ILA Hall, Davis Avenue Recreation Center and numerous historic churches still stand proudly on the Avenue.

Many regular citizens lived there too and they formed the village that helped to turn out the best and brightest among the African-American community. It seems when the cohesiveness of that hood and others like it dissolved, the plight of the black community took a turn for the worse. When the vestiges of segregation eventually fell, many left the area and assimilated into other neighborhoods. Black businesses relocated or closed and the unity that the neighborhood provided also weakened.

Toulminville, Crichton, Maysville, Campground, the Bottom, Down-the-Bay, Plateau, Trinity Gardens and many other “hoods” can all use a touch of revival. Some may feel these places are God-forsaken areas, yet they still consist of hard-working, educated and God-fearing people. While many blacks now have the ability to live anywhere in the city, there are still many who proudly call these neighborhoods home. Yes, there is crime in these neighborhoods. Yes, there are abandoned homes there too. But crime occurs in all neighborhoods across the city. Instead of turning our backs on these areas, we need to look at the positives that are still there and revive these areas. We all need to work hard to uplift these areas and rid them of the problems. They need the grocery stores, business and other services found elsewhere. If Mobile is to be a great city, we must work just as hard to revive and restore these “hoods” as we do for downtown, Old Dauphin Way, Church Street East, Leinkauf and Oakleigh. After all, we’re only as good as our weakest link. ♣



International Longshoreman's Association Hall - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue (Davis Avenue), Mobile AL

SEABREEZE (continued from Page 05)

In addition, tickets for nightly All-Star After Party Jam Shows, a dinner and lunch cruise, as well as a special Sax Pack CD Release Party are available online and limited.

To celebrate the conclusion of the jazz festival and to cap off the weekend of stellar entertainment, a free All-Star After-Party Jam Show will be held on Sunday, April 26 beginning at 10:30pm at Jimmy Buffet’s Margaritaville at Pier Park hosted by Four 80 East, Matt Marshak, Marcus Anderson and special guests. Admission is free with full restaurant menu and bar available.

Seabreeze Jazz Festival® tickets are available by phone: 800-595-4849 or online: www.seabreezejazzfestival.com. In addition, several local outlets offer single day and multi-day passes and military discounts available, See the Seabreeze Website for details.

The Seabreeze Jazz Festival® is again offering a free Four-Day Pass (a \$250 value) for each good used band instrument donated to the L.I.N.K.S. of Northwest Florida program. “Lonely Instruments for Needy Kids” is a local non-profit organization that takes previously used band instruments, provides the needed repairs, and then put them into the hands of needy kids whose families usually wouldn’t be able to participate in local elementary, middle, or high school band. Last year, over 100 instruments were donated in return for jazz festival tickets and put into the hands of deserving music students in Northwest Florida. Playground Music Center in Ft. Walton Beach is collecting all the band instruments for the program. For more information, contact Tony Leonard at (850)-243-2514.

Special hotel accommodation packages are also available through the festival’s supportive hotel sponsors. Presenting Sponsor and featured festival accommodations partner ResortQuest® By Wyndham Vacation Rentals is offering free shuttle service from select Panama City Beach properties for the best jazz festival experience ever. Call 855-990-0087 and use group code “JAZ5” for reservations or see the entire listing of hotels and special offers www.seabreezejazzfestival.com

A toll-free information hotline is available for details at 800-653-7519. Complete lineup, tickets, and schedule information is online at www.seabreezejazzfestival.com with weekly updates on Facebook.

General Admission seating is lawn seating so attendees need to bring a lawn chair or a blanket as event is festival seating. No coolers, outside food, or liquids allowed. An expanded food court area will be offered featuring a wide variety of food vendors including gourmet food trucks from all over the southeast. Bring an empty water or sports bottle for complimentary water inside the venue. Bottled water will be on sale inside the venue for \$1 a bottle. A cash bar will be available inside the venue for beer and wine sales. See the website for a complete list of rules and additional restrictions.

For more information, contact Mark Carter: 850-267-3279; info@seabreezejazzfestival.com ♣

Auburn Pharmacy School To Host Charity Run

The Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy PharmaFit Committee, Mobile Campus, is hosting the Lucky Ducky 5K on April 4 at 8 a.m. at the SGA Pavilion by the Intramural Fields. This race will benefit Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy, a nonprofit that provides medications to the uninsured patients of Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia Counties.

This is the third year that the PharmaFit Committee has hosted the race to benefit the pharmacy. Ozanam Pharmacy is one of the locations that the 4th year students do their rotations while working toward their degree.

“We are extremely thankful for our partner (Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy, Mobile Campus), for doing this fundraiser every year,” Shearie Archer, Executive Director of Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy said in a recent interview. “Each year this event gets bigger and bigger, and we are so happy that the students are so invested in this organization.”

You can register for the race in person at Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy, 571 Dauphin St. (downtown Mobile), McCoy Outdoor or Run-N-Tri (Mobile) or Running Wild (Fairhope) until noon on April 02. You can also register online: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/lucky-ducky-5k-runwalk-and-fun-run-tickets-15833033028>, until 4 a.m. on April 03. The race is a certified 5K course and there will also be a fun run of about a mile. The deadline to guarantee a t-shirt is March 23. Besides the race, there will be inflatables and face painting for the kids as well as local vendors. ♣

THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX



Arthur L. Mack
FREELANCE WRITER
Mobile, Alabama

Contact Info: steppinoutnews@aol.com

WHAT MAKES A MAN?

What makes a man—better yet, what makes a Black man?

Is it the car he drives? Is it the amount of money he is willing to spend on a woman? Is it the clothes he wears? Is it his physique? Or, is it the way he dances?

Maybe those are the things that make a man. Then again, maybe not.

One of the things I have noticed in 60 years on planet Earth is there is ongoing debate about what a real man is like. In my younger days, I was amazed—and sometimes angered—that the sweetest, smartest young ladies were always falling for the smooth-talking, stylish guys while here I was, struggling to find my way and barely being acknowledged as existing.

Sometimes, the guys and their lady companions would join in and ridicule me. Sometimes, it was partly my fault, but most of the time, they did it out of spite.

This would make me feel really bad—and unwanted.

That, however, is for another column. What I'm concerned with is now.

It seems to me that every other day, there is something on the news about another Black man being brutalized by law enforcement officials. If it's not that, it's some of our young brothers on Facebook acting like fools. Call me paranoid, if you will, but it seems as if it's the style for Black men to be marginalized. If they're not acting power hungry like Lucious Lyon on Empire, they're being portrayed as saggy-pants wearing gangsters, or weak, cowardly and effeminate.

And it doesn't help matters any when anyone in authority, male or female, Black or White, tries to browbeat him and make him look like a fool.

So okay, I'll ask the question again...what makes a man—particularly a Black man?

If you don't know, maybe I can help you.

He's the unsung hero in church who manages to get things done by relying on his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, regardless of what others in the church may think. He's not down with any foolishness or politics in the church, and can always be relied on to do the right thing.

He's the brother who, while not owning expensive suits or driving a Jaguar, Cadillac CTS, or Mercedes, dresses well enough to the best of his ability and is perfectly fine driving an older car. Incidentally, ladies, he's the one who's going to come to your front door and ring the doorbell instead of sitting outside blowing for you to come outside.

Believe it or not, he will even open the passenger door of his car for you.

He's that one individual at work who is not going to get caught up in office politics, but at the same time, stand up for his principles while doing a day's work for a day's pay. He will move heaven and earth, if at all possible, to make sure his family is fed and the bills are paid, because he is a devoted family man.

He knows his history, and if there are some facets of his history that he does not know about, you can rest assured that he is going to do some research.

He's all of this and more. Many of us brothers can learn from his example. Many ladies too, for that matter. If you know a man who is like this, be grateful and give him all the encouragement and support. The world depends on it. ❖

48th Annual USS Alabama Crewmate Contest

Applications for the 2015-2016 USS ALABAMA Crewmate Contest are being accepted now through April 10, 2015. Applications can be downloaded from www.ussalabama.com or may be picked up seven days a week between the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. from the Ticket Office at Battleship Memorial Park, located at 2703 Battleship Parkway.

Entrants must be young ladies who have reached their 19th birthday by March 27, 2015 and must not have reached their 22nd birthday by the same date. All applicants must reside and currently live in Mobile or Baldwin County. If chosen, the same provisions apply throughout the term of the Crewmate assignment.

The Crewmates represent Battleship Memorial Park and the State of Alabama at a variety of public relations activities throughout the state. Selection criteria include poise, appearance, application information, references, and interviews with a selection panel.

The new Miss USS ALABAMA will receive a \$2,000 scholarship, Miss USS DRUM a \$1,500 scholarship, and the other 4 Crewmates will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship, all to the college or university of their choice.

No fees or sponsorships are required to enter the contest. All uniforms and accessories worn at official functions are provided at no cost to the Crewmates, by the Battleship Commission, as well as all travel expenses for out-of-town activities. All functions are fully chaperoned by officials of Battleship Memorial Park.

The USS ALABAMA Crewmate program was founded in 1967 as an ambassador effort for the then newly created USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park. The program has offered more than 200 young ladies the opportunity to serve in this position and also to receive scholarship funds to the school of their choice. The Crewmates have dedicated thousands of community service hours not only to Battleship Memorial Park but also throughout the State of Alabama.

For questions regarding this program, please contact, Lynne Price at 251-438-2834 or email lprice@ussalabama.com. ❖

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Service and Advocacy

Members of the Beta Omicron Lambda (BOL) Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, recently sponsored a community service project by collecting needed items for two local social service agencies. Selected were Wilmer Hall Children's Home and Penelope House. Wilmer Hall Children's Home is a non-profit faith-based organization that has been serving children in need in Mobile, Alabama since 1864. Penelope House provides safety, protection, and support to the victims of Domestic Violence and their children through the provision shelter, advocacy, and individual and community education. With the assistance of the managerial staff of both agencies, needed items were identified. The Chapter reached out to other Greek-letter organizations and received a response from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Shown in the photo with representatives of Wilmer Hall Children's Home and Penelope House are, from left, BOL member Rufus Hudson; Eugene McCall, Jr., Education Coordinator at Wilmer Hall; Margaret Scarborough, Executive Assistant at Wilmer Hall; BOL Chapter President Gary Jackson; Symantha McDonald, President of Delta Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc; Amanda Thompson, Penelope House Children's Program Coordinator; Stacy Burroughs, Penelope House Facilities Manager; and BOL member Dr. Terry Hazzard. ♣



THEATER PROFESSIONALS NEEDED!!!



LEGACY 166 (a non-profit arts organization) is looking for **6-8 AFRICAN AMERICAN ACTORS, MALE AND FEMALE, AGES 20 and UP** to participate in a local production of African American theatre. The production will focus on the relevancy of works from the Black Arts Movement to contemporary African American theatre as it reflects today's society. The auditions are SATURDAY, MAY 02, 10AM-1PM and SUNDAY, MAY 03, 11AM-2PM. Those interested must prepare a 2-3 minute contemporary monologue, bring a head shot and resume, and wear comfortable clothing for movement. Auditions are by appointment only. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

LEGACY 166 is also seeking an experienced **STAGE MANAGER**. This position is open to all genders and ethnicities regardless of age. Interested individuals should forward a resume to legacycenter166@aol.com.

LEGACY 166 is also offering internships to students interested in becoming a **PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**. Experience is encouraged, but not required. Preference will be given to students enrolled in college and high school theater/drama programs. Forward resume to legacycenter166@aol.com.

For Additional Information Call (251) 533-5726

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FLAVA (continued from Page 06)

SATURDAY MATINEE – Saturday April 18, 2 p.m., Saraland Public Library, 111 Saraland Loop. The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1-The Hunger Games saga continues in this sequel that finds Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) faced with a decision that could sway the fate of a nation. The film runs 123 minutes and is rated PG-13. For more information, please call 675-2879.

POETRY SLAM COMPETITION – Saturday, April 18, 2-5:00 p.m., Toulminville Branch, 601 Stanton Rd. 11th Annual Poetry Slam-a-Rama-In celebration of National Poetry Month, the library will hold a poetry competition open to children ages 8-19. Judging will be based on originality, creativity, clarity, and presentation. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, April 15. For more information or to register call 438-7075. This program is co-sponsored by The Friends of the Mobile Public Library.

POETRY ENTHUSIASTS – Monday, April 20, 6 - 7:45 p.m., Toulminville Branch, 601 Stanton Rd. Join members of Spoken Word of Mobile for an evening of poetry readings at the Toulminville Branch. Students and adults are encouraged to share readings of their own works or works from their favorite poets. For more information, call 438-7075.

THE READER'S CHOICE BOOK CLUB – Tuesday, April 21, 1 p.m., West Regional Branch, 5555 Grelot Rd. Join us every third Tuesday for some lively book discussions and tips on what's hot and what's not in the world of books. This month's topics of discussion are The Silkworm by Robert Galbraith. For more information, please call 208-7097.

MOVIE TIME WITH MR. BUTCH – Friday, April 24, 4 p.m., Moorer/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Ave. Disney Classics, Brother Bear - In the Disney-animated adventure Brother Bear, Joaquin Phoenix provides the voice of Kenai, a young Native American boy whose brother, Sitka (voice of D.B. Sweeney), is killed by a mother bear protecting her cubs. With revenge in mind, Kenai sets out into the woods only to find

himself magically transformed into a bear himself. The film runs 85 minutes and is rated G. For more information, please call 470-7770 or email ftigner@mplonline.org.

American Girl Book Club – Tuesday, April 28, 4 - 5 p.m., Ages 7 – 12 Years. West Regional Branch, 5555 Grelot Road. Explore America through the eyes of a different American Girl from the popular book series. In addition to the book discussions, there will be activities, crafts, and snacks. Lots to learn and opportunities to make new friends! Saige Paints the Sky is the topic of our discussion. For more information or to register, call the Children's Department at 340-8571.

For information on these and other events, visit the web site at www.mplonline.org

Prichard & Mitchell Library News

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 12:00-1:00 P.M., 3-13 years old. Activity includes a video: **UNCLE ELEPHANT: ARNIE** – a cheerful nine-year-old elephant, loves to joke around. But when Arnie's mom and dad vanish while sailing, Arnie is sure he will never be happy again.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 12:00-1:00 P.M., ages 3-13 years old. Activity includes a video: **Mulan** – Embraced for her loveable, spirited nature, Mulan is a young girl who doesn't quite fit into her tradition bound society.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 12:00-1:00 P.M., ages 3-13 years old. Activity includes a video: **LILO AND STITCH** – The worldwide box office sensation is a heartwarming comedy about the power of loyalty, friendship and finding your place in this world.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 12:00-1:00 P.M., ages 3-13 years old. Activity includes a video: **THE PAPER BAG PRINCESS** – Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful, clever princess who of marrying a perfect prince named Ronald. Then a rap singing, fire-breathing dragon toasted her kingdom to a crisp and prince-napped Ronald, leaving the princess with only an old paper bag to wear. ♣



Celebrate Small Business Week



May 4-8



Small Business Conference

Monday, May 4
**Mobile's Best Resources
for Small Business
Assistance**
1:30 to 4 p.m.
West Mobile Regional Library
5555 Grelot Rd.

Tuesday, May 5
**Tried and True Ways
to Grow Your Business**
8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Mobile Area Chamber
451 Government St.

Tuesday, May 5
**Legal Issues Impacting
Small Business**
1 to 5 p.m.
Mobile Area Chamber
451 Government St.

Wednesday, May 6
Where is the Money?
1 to 5 p.m.
American Red Cross
35 N. Sage Ave.

One price for all conference events...

Early Bird Rate by April 17 - Members: \$45 / Potential Members: \$60

Rate After April 17 - Members: \$60 / Potential Members: \$75

For more information and to register, go to events.mobilechamber.com

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Bronze: Maynard Cooper & Gale and Trustmark

Small Business Week Luncheon

Thursday, May 7
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The Battle House Hotel & Spa

Join us as we recognize the Outstanding Entrepreneur and
celebrate the three Small Business of the Year finalists:

American WeatherStar
McAleer's Office Furniture
Wilson Dismukes

Tickets start at \$40 for members / \$50 for potential members

For details and tickets, contact:

Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Payment and reservations are required by Friday, May 1. No refunds after that date.

CALENDAR

April 2015

MOBILE

CONCERTS

Sunsquabi-Soul Kitchen, 4/2
LetLive, Stolas-Soul Kitchen, 4/6
Jared Weeks-Cowboys & Angels, 4/10
Earphunk, Gravy-Soul Kitchen, 4/10
Sugarcane Jane-The Dog Pond, 4/12
Fat Man Squeeze-Soul Kitchen, 4/12
American Aquarium-Moe's Bar-B-Cue, 4/14
Josh Garrett-Blues Tavern, 4/18
The Ragbirds-Callaghan's, 4/19
Papadosio, Human Experience-Soul Kitchen, 4/19
Worx-O'Daly's, 4/19

Nothing More, Islander-Soul Kitchen, 4/21
Gov't Mule, The London Soul-Saenger Theater, 4/22
Halestorm, Bridge To Grace-Soul Kitchen, 4/26
Bill Burr-Saenger Theater, 4/28
Breaking Benjamin, Young Guns-Soul Kitchen, 4/28
Slash, Myles Kennedy-Soul Kitchen, 4/29

MUSEUMS

—Exploreum

Hands on Hall; ON-GOING
Minds on Hall; ON-GOING
Science Lab (Ciba Lab); ON-GOING
Wharf Wonder; ON-GOING

—Fort Conde

Historic Fort Founded in 1702, Moved to Mobile in 1711; ON-GOING

—Museum of Art

Material Imaginings, ON-GOING

—Museum of Mobile

Old Ways, New Days Part I and II, ON-GOING
Walls and Halls, ON-GOING
CSS Alabama Cannon, ON-GOING

—Phoenix Fire Museum

Steam Engines, Motorized Vehicles, Gallery; ON-GOING

ATLANTA

BALLET

Atlanta Ballet-Modern Choreographic Voices
-Cobb Arts Centre, 4/17-19

CONCERTS

The Osmond Brothers-Jennie Anderson Theater, 4/4
Tesla-The Tabernacle, 4/15
Bryan Adams-Verizon Amphitheater, 4/17
Hot Tuna-Variety Playhouse, 4/17
Dave Chappelle-The Tabernacle, 4/17-19
Earl Klugh, Dave Grusin, Lee Rittenour-Ferst Centre, 4/18
Jeff Foxworthy-Fox Theatre, 4/18
Diana Krall-Woodruff Arts Centre, 4/19
The Who, Joan Jett and The Blackhearts-Gwinnett Center, 4/23
Bob Dylan-Fox Theatre, 4/24
Godsmack, Hellyeah-The Tabernacle, 4/28
Joan Armatrading-Woodruff Arts Centre, 4/29

SYMPHONY

The Legend of Zelda Concert Series-Cobb Arts Centre, 4/30

ATMORE

CONCERTS

Billy Currington-Windcreek, 4/25

BILOXI

CONCERTS

Chrisette Michele-Golden Nugget, 4/3
Get The Led Out-American Aaron Lewis-Hard Rock Live, 4/3
Quiet Riot-IP Casino, Resort & Spa, 4/3
The Molly Ringwalds-Golden Nugget, 4/4
D.L. Hughley-IP Casino, Resort & Spa, 4/4
The Band Perry-Beau Rivage, 4/10
Gary Allan-Hard Rock Live, 4/10
John King-Golden Nugget, 4/10
ZZ Top-IP Casino, Resort and Spa, 4/11
August Alsina, Jeezy, Kevin Gates, Yo Gotti
-Coast Coliseum, 4/11
Craig Wayne Boyd-IP Casino, Resort and Spa, 4/17
Love Gun-Hard Rock Cafe, 4/18
Hinder-Coast Coliseum, 4/18
B Street Band-Hard Rock Live, 4/24
Yellowcard, Finch, The Downtown Fiction-Kress Live, 4/28
Mac McAnally-Beau Rivage, 4/28

FESTIVALS

Biloxi Crawfish Music Festival-Coast Coliseum, 4/16-19, 23-26

BIRMINGHAM

CONCERTS

Kenny Chesney-BJCC Arena, 4/9
Theresa Caputo-BJCC Concert Hall, 4/11
Carlos Mencia-Stardome, 4/17-18
Diana Krall-Alys Stephens Center, 4/20
Dave Chappelle-Alabama Theater, 4/21
Kevin Hart-BJCC Arena, 4/26

SYMPHONY

The Harlem Globetrotters-Samford, 3/15

DAPHNE

CONCERTS

Roberta Flack, Alabama Symphony Orchestra
-BJCC Concert Hall, 4/18

FAIRHOPE

CONCERTS

Sugarcane Jane-Windmill Market, 4/17

GULF SHORES

CONCERTS

Jarekus Singleton-Meyer's Park, 4/9
Simplified-Lulu's, 4/18



**SAMANTHA FISH
MEYER'S PARK
4/23**

Tall Paul-Lulu's, 4/23-24

Sugarcane Jane-Lulu's, 4/25

FESTIVALS

ZYDECO & CRAWFISH FESTIVAL: Nathan & The Zydeco
Cha-Chas, Jeffrey Broussard & The Creole Cowboys
-Waterway Village, 4/18

NEW ORLEANS

CONCERTS

CeCe Winans, Israel Houghton, Gerald Albright,
DeLeon Richards, Marcos Cole, Keith Staten,
Vonnice Lopez, Leon Timbo-Waterfront Park, 4/3
Jonny Lang-House of Blues, 4/9
Better Than Ezra-House of Blues, 4/11
Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Allan Toussaint
-Saenger Theatre, 4/25
Joan Armatrading-Civic Theatre, 4/27
Bob Dylan-Saenger Theatre, 4/29

FAMILY SHOWS

Disney On Ice-Lakefront Arena, 4/30-5/3

FESTIVALS

FRENCH QUARTER FESTIVAL-French Quarter, 4/9-12
JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL: Keith Urban, Wilco, Jimmy
Cliff, Hozier, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Nicholas Payton,
Butler, Bernstein & The Hot 9, Wayne Toups, Honey
Island Swamp Band, Kent Jordan, Earphunk, Grayson
Capps, and more-Fairgrounds, 4/24
JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL: The Who, John Legend,
Ryan Adams, Juvenile, Mannie Fresh, Dumpstaphunk,
Shovels & Rope, Cassandra Wilson, John P. Kee, Kenny
Garrett, The Revivalists, Sonny Landreth, Walter "Wolfman"
Washington, Jeremy Davenport, Ellis Marsalis, The Robert
Cray Band, and more-Fairgrounds, 4/25
JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL: Jimmy Buffett, Tony Bennett
& Lady Gaga, Pitbull, Allen Toussaint, Delbert McClinton,
Irma Thomas, Angeliqe Kidjo, Irvin Mayfield & The New
Orleans Jazz Orchestra, Shirley Caesar, BWB (Braun,
Whalum, Brown), ReBirth Brass Band, Béla Fleck &
Abigail Washburn, Cowboy Mouth, and more-
Fairgrounds, 4/26
JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL: Widespread Panic, Third
World, Alison Krauss + Union Station feat. Jerry Douglas,
The Word, Cyril Neville, Sturgill Simpson, Bonerama,
Amanda Shaw, Rosie Ledet, Eric Lindell, Stephanie Jordan,
The Iguanas, and more-Fairgrounds, 4/30
JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL: No Doubt, Chicago, Anthony
Hamilton, Galactic, Macy Gray, The Dirty Dozen Brass
Band, Paloma Faith, Estelle, Irma Thomas, Marc Broussard,
Donald Harrison Jr., Charmaine Neville, Delfeayo Marsalis,
(continued on Page 20... see CALENDAR)

Ask Flo!



DEAR FLO:

I'm tired of being judged by my past. It seems that everyone wants to talk about who I use to be in my teenage and young adult years. I stay away from family gathering because no one wants to talk about the present. I was never a horrible person, but I have done some things that I am not so proud of in the past. However, no one wants to talk about how I finished school, got a good job that I have held on to for over 15 years. No one wants to talk about my accomplishments just my failures. I love my family but I feel like I should stay away. What do you think I should do?

—Jessica • 56 • Mobile

DEAR JESSICA:

Jessica, I am proud of you. It seems as though you made a decision to do better and you did. I commend you for setting goals and accomplishing them. It is rare to meet anyone who has been on the same job over ten years in today's job market. I hope that you are not wasting your life wanting on others to confirm that you are okay. You must take hold of your own "self" esteem. Everyone wants their family to acknowledge when they have done well. However, quite often (sadly) it is those closest to you that can't see you as anyone but the person they know you as the longest. I would not advise you to cut ties with your family, just change the conversation. Often times people thing reminiscing about the past is harmless, when the story is about others and not themselves. You now have stories to tell about the real you, the grown you, the accomplished you: Tell your own story. Counteract their negative with a positive, bring a friend with you who is a part of your adult life and can laugh and amen as you tell your stories. I would also say like to give you something to think about: Is the reason the only stories they have to tell are of your youth because you did not allow them to be a part of your new life? This may not be the cause but in all things "FLO", start the answer with your own truth. ♣

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR FLO?
steppinoutnews@aol.com

AEROFEST (continued from Page 13)

version of Charlie Daniels Band's "Devil Went Down to Georgia", the Lt. Dan Band had the crowd rockin' and rolling. And when Gary Sinise asked all the Veterans in the crowd to raise their hands, it was inspirational to see how many brave men and women heroes were in the crowd, and it was awesome to be able to give them a round of applause and thank them for their service.

Progressing to the second stage, the good time vibe of New Orleans' Honey Island Swamp Band made us dance and swing with their cleverly crafted songs like "Black and Blue", "Cast the First Stone", and "Prodigal Son". They also did a great version of Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues", and their set concluded with one of my favorites, "Cane Sugar". A bit later as full darkness set in, the crowd was treated to a fantastic set of transcendent reggae rap from Matisyahu. It was easy to let loose and allow his peacefully intense music to take hold. At the end of his set, Matisyahu invited crowd members onstage to dance with joy and "One Love"; amongst them was a service woman in camouflage fatigues, and he held her hand triumphantly aloft thanking her for her service. The Zydeco sounds of the Lost Bayou Ramblers floated across the runways, before DJ Sinister began warming up the crowd with some mixed up country-pop-rock to get prepared for Saturday night's headliners. When the party goers were sufficiently primed, on came Big & Rich, with some big stage presence and some rich-sounding guitars to country-rock the night away. The crowd sang and danced along, enjoying every bit of their fun, action-packed set.

It was quite impressive to witness this first attempt at Mobile's AeroFest, a major undertaking on so many levels. The venue is an awesome place for this type of multi-dimensional event. The activities were extensive, the music and sound staging was top-notch, and the uniqueness of hosting Titan FC fights and an Independence Ride really set AeroFest apart as something different. However, the most inspirational aspect of AeroFest is the fact that it was all done with the purpose of honoring and celebrating the true Heroes of our nation, the men and women who offer to sacrifice everything to defend our country and our freedom. Our thanks and appreciation goes out to all the active military and veterans: you truly gave Mobilians a reason to celebrate "For All the Right Reasons". And if you live on the Gulf Coast, or even further away, and you didn't make it to this inaugural AeroFest, be on the lookout for it to return in the Spring of 2016, and make plans to attend! This is definitely an event that deserves a successful and bright future here in Mobile! ♣

CALENDAR (continued from Page 19)

Steve Riley & The Mamou Playboys, Jarekus Singleton, and more-Fairgrounds, 5/1

JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL: Elton John, Ed Sheeran, T.I., Jerry Lee Lewis, Aaron Neville, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Taj Mahal, Charles Lloyd Quartet, Kermit Ruffins & The Barbecue Swingers, Big Freedia, Marcia Ball, Marvin Sapp, The Dixie Cups, Wanda Rouzan, Jean Knight, Terence Blanchard, The Soul Rebels, Germaine Bazzle, Astral Project, and more-Fairgrounds, 5/2

JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL: Steve Winwood, The O'Jays, Kacey Musgraves, Buddy Guy, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Maze Feat. Frankie Beverly, The Meters, "Spirit Of Satch: Dr. John Interprets Louis Armstrong", The Radiators, The Blind Boys of Alabama, Kermit Ruffins, Buckwheat Zydeco, Anders Osborne, Christian McBride, Dianne Reeves, Jeffrey Osborne, Dr. John, Lenny Kravitz-Fairgrounds, 5/3

OCEAN SPRINGS

CONCERTS

The Mumbles-Government Street Grocery, 4/18
Delta Reign-Government Street Grocery, 4/25

OCEAN BEACH

CONCERTS

Whyte Caps-Cobalt, 4/18
Jimmy Buffett-The Wharf, 4/24
Stellar-Live Bait Too, 4/30

PENSACOLA

CONCERTS

The Bright Light Social Hour-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/1
Swans-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/2
Jonathan Byrd-RadioLive, 4/2
Black Oak Arkansas Feat. Jim Dandy-Gene's Lounge, 4/3
The Molly Ringwalds-Seville Quarter, 4/3
My Excuse-The Grunge Bar, 4/3
Dax Riggs-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/3
Worx-Chan's Nightclub, 4/4
Sunsquabi-The Handlebar, 4/5

Tune-Yards, Sun Lox-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/6

Steep Canyon Rangers-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/7

Between the Buried and Me, Atlas Moth-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/8

Coal Chamber, American Head Charge, Combichrist, Filter, Saint Ridley-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/10

The Duppies, Trial By Stone-The Handlebar, 4/10

Sir Michael Rocks, Robb Bank\$, Pouya-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/11

J Boog, Inna Vision, Westafa, Horizen-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/12

The Jamie Eubanks Band-Seville Quarter, 4/13

Aer-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/14

Celtic Woman-Saenger, 4/14

Come The Dawn, For the Fallen Dreams, Oceano-The Handlebar, 4/15

The Contenders-The Handlebar, 4/17

Pensacola Civic Band-Saenger, 4/17

Waxahatchee, The Goodbye Party, Wet Nurse-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/18

Damon Fowler-Paradise Grill, 4/21

Hellyeah, Like A Storm, We Are Harlot-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/24

Zoso-The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/25

Flyleaf, The Agonist, Fit For Rivals, Diamante, Falling For Scarlet -Vinyl Music Hall, 4/26

The Smokin' Joe Kubek Band feat. Bnois King-Seville Quarter, 4/27

Slipknot, Hatebreed-Bay Center, 4/29

George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, Post Pluto-Vinyl Music Hall, 4/30

SYMPHONY

Pensacola Symphony Orchestra-Saenger, 4/25

SILVERHILL

CONCERTS

Sugarcane Jane, Grayson Capps, Dylan LeBlanc-Blue Moon Farm, 4/5
Willie Sugarcapps-Blue Moon Farm, 4/19

SPANISH FORT

CONCERTS

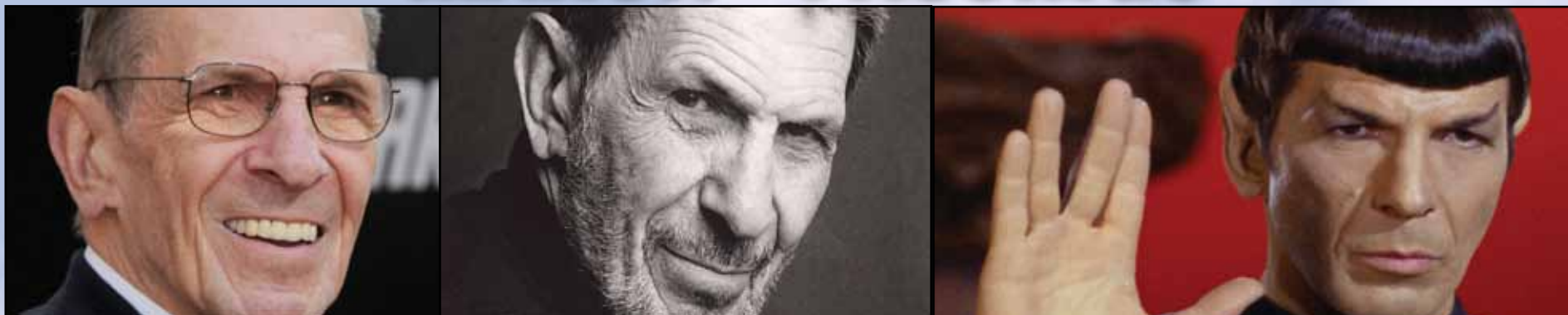
Delta Reign-The Bluegill, 4/23

TUSCALOOSA

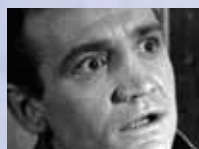
CONCERTS

Needtobreathe, Ben Rector, Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors, Colony House-Amphitheater, 4/23
Kansas, Boston-Amphitheater, 4/30 ♣

MARCH ²⁰¹⁵ PASSINGS



LEONARD NIMOY-83 • ACTOR • COPD



RICHARD BAKALYAN-84
ACTOR



DANIEL VON BARGEN-64
ACTOR
Diabetes



LYNN BORDEN-77
ACTRESS



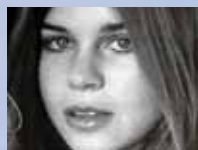
STEVE BRISTOW-65
VIDEO GAME ENGINEER
Atari



IZOLA CURRY-98
ATTEMPTED TO KILL
MARTIN LUTHER KING
1958



OSCAR DÍAZ-32
BOXER
Head Injury



JUNE FAIRCHILD-68
ACTRESS
Liver Cancer



TERRY GILL-75
ACTOR
Crocodile Dundee
Lung Cancer



IRWIN HASEN-96
CARTOONIST
Dondi



EARL LLOYD-86
NBA
FIRST BLACK IN NBA



ANTHONY MASON-48
NBA
Heart Failure



CHARMAYNE MAXWELL-46
SINGER
Brownstone
Fall



WINDELL MIDDLEBROOKS-36
ACTOR
Miller Beer Commercials



MINNIE MIÑOSO-92
MLB
CHICAGO'S FIRST BLACK PLAYER
Pulmonary Artery Dissection



PAUL NAPIER-84
ACTOR



SAM SIMON-59
WRITER
The Simpsons
Colorectal Cancer



CLAUDE SITTON-89
CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNALIST
Heart Failure



LEW SOLOFF-71
TRUMPETER
Blood, Sweat & Tears
Heart Attack



CLARK TERRY-94
JAZZ TRUMPETER/
FLUGELHORNIST



BEN WOOLF-34
ACTOR
Traffic Collision

EXPRESSIONS: RIGHT OR WRONG

Lisa Johnson — A Poet and Writer who lives in Mobile



I've often heard people say when you're good you go to heaven but when you're bad you go to hell and burn. I could never wrap my around that idea that our loving Creator whom the Bible says, "God is love" according to 1 John 4:8 would punish the very creation he created. The very idea that he would punish people in hellfire is contrary to the Bible's teaching. In fact, read Jeremiah 7:30, 31 to see God's feelings on how he felt when the people of Judah were burning their own sons and daughters in the fire.

If you search various Bibles, you will find that Jesus was in hell as recorded in the Kings James Version, at Acts 2:31 "He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption." Acts 2:31 American Standard Version (ASV) "31 he foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption."

So we have the word hell and hades used in these two translations. The Greek word hades does not refer to a single grave (Gr., ta'phos), or to a single tomb (Gr., mne'ma), or to a single memorial tomb (Gr., mne'mei'on), but to the common grave of mankind, where the dead and buried ones are unseen. So in other words Christ was not left in the grave but was resurrected back to life on the third day. If you're a reasoning person consider also what God told Adam his punishment for his sin would be at Genesis 2:17 17 But as for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad, you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will certainly die." And Genesis 3:19 19 In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return." So now ask yourself would it have been fair to tell Adam that he would go back to the ground if he was really going to a fiery hell? God would have been lying if he was actually sending Adam to a fiery hell and we know that God cannot lie according to Titus 1:2. Other Bible verses show at death, the person ceases to exist. For example Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10 5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing at all, nor do they have any more reward, because all memory of them is forgotten. 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do with all your might, for there is no work nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom in the Grave, where you are going." So there is nothing going on in the grave once a person dies which is why you do what you have to do while you're alive. We are all sinners and the wages of sin is death according to Romans 6:7, 23. If death acquits a person of their sin, what purpose would a fiery punishment in hell serve? I encourage you in your spare time to consider Ecclesiastes 3:19 and for more information check out www.jw.org to find out what happens when a person dies and why does God allow suffering? ❖

PNC's Grow Up Great Family Financial Fair

Come out to the Ben May Main Library, 701 Government Street on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. – Noon for Family fun for all ages! Enjoy games, activities, refreshments, special guests, prizes, and a visit by the PNC Bank's Mobile Learning Adventure. MLA is part of the PNC's Grow Up Great program. The MLA features activities for parents with children under the age of 5, including interactive kiosks, the What I Want to Be When I Grow Up photo station, crafts and giveaways.

For more information, call the Ben May Main Library Children's Department at 208-7086.



For more information on PNC's Grow Up Great, please go to www.sesameworkshop.org/partners/partners/pnc/. ❖

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NATHANIEL PATTERSON

Patterson is Managing Partner, Patterson Marketing Group, LLC. He writes to empower people with effective marketing strategies that increase business development, awareness and enhance personal lifestyles. To contact him call 888.599.5502 or connect with him on LinkedIn.



Mobile Is Gaining A Bad Reputation Poor Customer Service is Too Common

Customer Service in Mobile really STINKS! This city advertises itself as a friendly city and without a formal survey, I am telling you – YOU FLUNKED.

It is my nature to look for challenges (opportunities) and seek plausible solutions. In most people mind customer service is a front line (employee) issue. Yet, I view it differently. In many cases the crux of the problem is with senior management and their (in)ability to master positive relationships.

Do you work for a company where senior management never interacts with line employees? Do they come in the back door and take the stairs to their suites? Is the only interaction you have with management is negative? Is orientation the only time you receive training?

Mastering positive relationships and developing a culture of excellence starts with vision and core statements. Yet it must be practiced daily. The members of the organization must feel nurtured, respected and free to create positive customer experiences. What many companies lack is a sincere commitment to employee recognition. The employees want to contribute, but if they do not feel their opinions and/or work is not valued, it will show in poor customer service.

There are other factors that display senior management tenuous commitment to its workers and customer service: employees who lack product/service knowledge, lack of documentation for customer experience surveys, poor record of disciplinary and/or training for employees who are noted for poor customer service, poor employee communication tools and no formal recognition program. Also, my pet peeve, employees with bad attitudes are not disciplined or terminated.

In contemporary society a social media post can travel across several platforms and be seen by over 25,000 people, in less than two hours. Once a negative reputation is obtained, it could take years to rectify. This not only negatively impact revenue but will effect recruitment of top talent. If you want your company to be a destination of talent and positive customer experiences, you must make a commitment first to employee recognition.

I am challenging senior management to review your commitment to excellence. Your customers deserve better. ❖

SETTLEMENT (continued from Page 14)

Minnesota coordinated pre-trial proceedings with Stryker and the PSC and worked with the judge in New Jersey toward a common goal, resolution. In 2014, the New Jersey Superior Court held several bellwether trials in 2014. As a result of the process and those bellwether trials, a \$1.4 billion dollar settlement was announced in the Superior Court of New Jersey and U.S. District Court of Minnesota wherein victims who underwent a revision surgery to remove the Rejuvenate and ABG II metal hip devices BEFORE November 3, 2014 qualified for compensation. ❖



LAUGHTER

WE'RE ALL WINNERS!!!ALL THE ANSWERS!!!

Little Bubba was applying for his first job with the railroad. The interviewer asked him: "Do you know how to use the equipment?" "Yes", Little Bubba replied. "Then what would you do if you realized that 2 trains, one from this station and one from the next were going to crash because they were on the same track?" The young applicant thought and replied "I'd press the button to change the points without hesitation." The interviewer then asked, "what if the button was frozen and wouldn't work?" "I'd run outside and pull the lever to change the points manually", said Little Bubba. The interviewer replied, "And if the lever was broken?" "I'd get on the phone to the next station and tell them to change the points," answered Little Bubba. The interviewer then queried, "And if the phone was broken and needed an electrician to fix it?" The boy thought about that one. "I'd run into town and get my uncle!" The interviewer asked, "Is your uncle an electrician?" "No", said Little Bubba, "but he's never seen a train crash before!!!"

DOCTOR TO DOCTOR!!!

There's a bunch of doctors gathered together at a doctor's convention one night. Leroy, a male doctor, notices Willie Mae, a female doctor from across the room. She notices him also and the next thing you know, they're sitting next to each other by the end of dinner. After dinner, Leroy asks if she wants to go up to his hotel room. "Sure," says Willie Mae, "Let me go wash my hands first." After she washes her hands, they become intimate. After they are finished, she washes her hands again. This is really starting to annoy Leroy so he sarcastically says, "You know, you must be a surgeon, because you keep washing your hands." Angry at this remark, Willie Mae says, "Well, you must be an anesthesiologist, because I didn't feel a thing!!!"

THUMBS UP!!!

A racist walks into a crowded bar. He looks around and sees Leroy, a black man, sitting in a corner. The racist walks up to the bar, turns around and announces, "I'm going to buy everyone in this bar a free drink, except for that black guy over there!" Everybody is clapping and cheering for the racist and when he buys the last drink, Leroy turns around, puts his thumb up and says, "Thanks dude!" The racist is slightly puzzled by his reaction but doesn't pay too much attention to it. The next night, the racist goes into the same bar and again, there is Leroy sitting in the corner, so the man, again, goes to the bar, turns around and says, "I'm going to buy everyone here a free drink, except for that black guy over there!" The crowd is all ecstatic over getting a free drink and are hugging and cheering the racist for his generosity. When he buys the drink, Leroy again turns around, puts his thumb up and says, "Thanks dude!" The racist scratches his head and asks the barman, "Why is that black guy thanking me when he's the only person I'm not buying drinks for?" "Well" the barman responds, "he owns this place!!!"

DON'T EAT THAT!!!

Bubba kills a deer and takes it home to cook for dinner. Both he and his wife decide that they won't tell the kids what kind of meat it is, but will give them a clue and let them guess. When the kids sit down to eat they ask what kind of meat is it. Bubba says, "Well it's what Mommy calls me sometimes." The little girl screams to her little brother, "Don't eat it. It's A\$\$hole!!! ☺"

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