



STEPPIN' OUT

THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & EMPOWERMENT GUIDE OF THE GULF COAST

JANUARY 2016 • Volume 15:Issue 05

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MARDI GRAS 2016



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.

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

For information on advertising, to comment on subject matter, or to volunteer your services, please contact us at:

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WAY TO SUCCESS



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REFLECTIONS

A Lesson Well Learned

One day, a father of a very wealthy family decided that because his son was a few months away from entering his teen age years, it was about time that he taught him how to maintain the family's Status Quo, just like his father taught him. So he took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad", the son said. "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son. "So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father. The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden, and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden, and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard, and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on, and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them." The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are." ♣



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Happy Birthday MLK Jr.!



Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr's birthday with stories, crafts and birthday treats on Saturday, January 16, 10:30 a.m. at the Ben May Main Library, 701 Government Street. For more information, please call the Children's Department at 208-7086 or email crhodes@mplonline.org. ♣



KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

A Tribute to

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPONSORED BY

BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GUEST SPEAKER

REVEREND CLINTON L. JOHNSON

NEW SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
2756 OLD SHELL ROAD, MOBILE, AL 36607

DATE: **THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016** TIME: **6:00 PM**

PLACE: **BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

BAKER-GAINES CENTRAL CAMPUS - YVONNE KENNEDY AUDITORIUM

1355 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue - Mobile, AL 36604

Sign Language Interpreting Provided Bishop State © 2015 Bishop State Community College

FREE ADMISSION

Mobile Chocolate Festival.com



February 27th

at the

Abba Shrine Center

Proceeds to benefit Penelope House

10am - 4pm

Admission is free for children 13 & under;
Seniors 65 & above \$2.00; General admission \$3.00

Featuring:

- Vendors with Samples and products
- Children's Area
- Mobile Fixture Demonstration Area
- Chocolate Challenge
- Project Yum Way
- Chocolate Martini Tasting
- Cupcake Booth
- Chocolate Milk Mustache Booth and more.

by Destinee Bolden



Fashion hot spot

Leggings Are a “Win-Win” Situation

The fashion Reports are in: Leggings are the ultimate piece of clothing. Leggings are probably the most universally diverse and flattering item at the moment. You can dress them up, dress them down, and they come in an abundance of shapes, sizes, and patterns. With Leggings, you never have to sacrifice style for comfort because you will surely get the best of both worlds. They are in no way, tight or unbreathable like most jeans are designed to be. They are made out of a super comfortable stretchy material that makes going out a joy ride of coziness. Leggings go with 99% of dress tops; however, you can also dress them down to achieve a major sporty vibe. Converse, a hoodie, and leggings are the go to look for the majority of athletic people. The most popular way to wear leggings is with knee high boots. If you're looking to amp up things a bit, a fur jacket paired with leggings will almost always do the trick. Leggings will always be a win win, you just have to make sure you buy the ones that hug your body in all the right ways. Once you find your perfect pair of leggings, you won't want to let them go. They'll become a part of you. Your daily routine won't be complete with sliding into a pair. Let go of fashion tension and let your leggings work their magic. ❀



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Mardi Gras 2016 is Here!

It's that time of year that many Mobilians live for; balls, parades and revelry is the order of the day. Once the Moonpie drops, the party is on.

"Fat Tuesday falls on the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. This year that happens to be on February 09.

Mobile is the birthplace of Mardi Gras with the first official Mardi Gras celebration being held in the city in 1703. The parading organizations (krewes) began in 1830 when a group of locals wanted their New Year's Eve dinner party to continue a bit longer and took to the streets. They made their way to a nearby store and retrieved farm implements and cowbells before marching through the streets. Thus the Cowbellion de Rakin Society, Mobile's first mystic society, was formed.

The Civil War curtailed Mardi Gras festivities until April of 1865 when Union troops invaded and took control of Mobile. The following year a local clerk and former member of a mystic society (the Tea Drinkers Mystic Society) named Joseph Stillwell Cain (Joe Cain) dressed up as a mythical Native American Chief and led a parade through occupied Mobile. His actions reignited Mobile's love of parades and parties. Joe Cain Day (the Sunday before Fat Tuesday) in Mobile is regarded as one of the biggest events on Mobile's Mardi Gras calendar. On Joe Cain Day, thousands of people dress up and parade through the streets on foot, and on floats, celebrating the man who brought Mobile's Mardi Gras tradition back to life.

So get out and enjoy Mardi Gras 2016. Let's not let Joe Cain's efforts go to waste!!! ♣



MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 179TH ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2016

5:00 to 8:30 pm
Mobile Civic Center

Join us for the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce 179th Annual Meeting and see how far we've come in the past year, what's propelling current and future success and how we're moving forward with great momentum.

Tickets are \$50 or \$485 for a table of 10
(Chamber members) /
\$60 for potential members.

RSVP to 251-431-8606 or
email cwilson@mobilechamber.com.



MOMENTUM MOBILE



MOBILE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LOCAL FLAVA

MOBILE LIBRARY NEWS

ANIME IN THE AFTERNOON

Saturday, January 02, 2 - 4 p.m., Ben May Main Library, 701 Government Street. Calling All Teens-Kick off the New Year with our anime feature, Reservoir Chronicle: Tsubasa season 1. Film is rated TV PG. For more information, call the Ben May Main Library Children's Department at 208-7086.

CHESS CLUB

Mondays, January 04, 11 & 25, 4 - 5 p.m., Ages 8 - 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.

Tuesdays, January 05, 12, 19 & 26, 4 p.m., Ages 6 and Above, Ben May Main Library, 701 Government Street. Beginners and experienced players are welcome. For more information, call the Ben May Main Library Children's Department at 208-7086 or crhodes@mplonline.org.

Wednesdays, January 06, 13, 20 & 27, 3:30 - 5 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, January 14, 21 & 28, 4 p.m., Ages - 6 to 18, Semmes Branch, 9150 Moffett Road. Learn to play Chess! Beginners and experienced players are welcome. For more information, call 645-6840.

OUT OF THIS WORLD BOOK CLUB-VIA SKYPE

Tuesday, January 05, 6:30 p.m., Moorers/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Ave. Join us for a SciFi/Fantasy book club from the comfort of your home. Meetings will be conducted entirely over Skype video chat. This month's topic of discussion is Amped by Daniel H. Wilson. To participate in the group chat, download and register for a Skype ID for free at: <http://www.skype.com/en/>. Once you're registered, simply have the Skype program open, log in at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, and click or tap the answer button. For more information or help with Skype set up, contact Jill Stewart at 470-7770 or jstewart@mplonline.org.

TEEN BOOK YAK & MOVIE SNACK

Thursday, January 07, 4 p.m., Moorers/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Ave. Far from the Madding Crowd-Enjoy the Book - Watch the Movie! Based on the literary classic by Thomas Hardy, Bathsheba Everdene is an independent woman who attracts three different suitors: a sheep farmer; a dashing soldier; and a prosperous, older bachelor. The film runs 119 minutes and is rated PG-13. For more information, please call 470-7770 or email eenglish@mplonline.org.

AMERICAN GIRL BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 12, 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! This month's topic of discussion is Really Truly Ruthie. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call the Children's Department at 340-8571.

A PAGE IN TIME

Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 p.m., West Regional Branch, 5555 Grelot Rd. If you love Historical Fiction this book club is for you. This month's topic of discussion is The Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent. For more information, please call Michele at 340-8561.

EBONY MOMENTS BOOK CLUB

Thursday, January 14, 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 Baby, You're the Best by Mary B. Morrison. For more information, contact Betty Kidd at 470-7766.

MOVIE TIME WITH MR. BUTCH

Friday, January 15, 4 p.m., Moorers/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Ave. Disney Favorites-The feature is Frozen. The film runs 108 minutes and is rated PG. For more information, please call 470-7770 or email ftigner@mplonline.org.

HICKORY GOES TO HEAVEN-A SON HONORS HIS MOTHER

Saturday, January 16, 2 - 4 p.m., Moorers/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Ave. Local author and playwright Thomas Perez will share readings from Volume Two of his Mother's memoir, Hickory Goes to Heaven: A Love Story. Living to age 100 with humor and style takes faith and courage. Alyce Hicks Perez was blessed with both. For more information, please call 208-7097.

Thomas Joseph Perez is a native of Mobile. A satirical playwright, he produces his works under the theater he founded in 1985, The South of the Salt Line Theatre . . . of Comedy, Satire, and Deeper Meaning. For more information on the author and his books, you can contact Thomas Joseph Perez on Facebook, or email at tojoperez@yahoo.com.

EXTRAVAGANT READERS BOOK CLUB

Saturday, January 16, 3 p.m., Toulminville Branch, 601 Stanton Rd. Topics of discussion are Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and The Murderer's Daughter by Jonathan Kellerman. For more information, please call 438-7075.

THE READER'S CHOICE BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 19, 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 topic of discussion is Above the Waterfall by Ron Rash. For more information, please call 208-7097.

TUESDAY GREAT MOVIE ADVENTURE

Tuesday, January 19, 3:15 p.m., Parkway Branch, 1924-B Dauphin Island Parkway. Inside Out-Young Riley was perfectly content with her life when her father landed a new job in San Francisco, and the family moved across the country. Now, as Riley prepares to navigate a new city and attend a new school, her emotional headquarters becomes a hot bed of activity. The film runs 102 minutes and is rated PG. For more information, please call 470-7766.

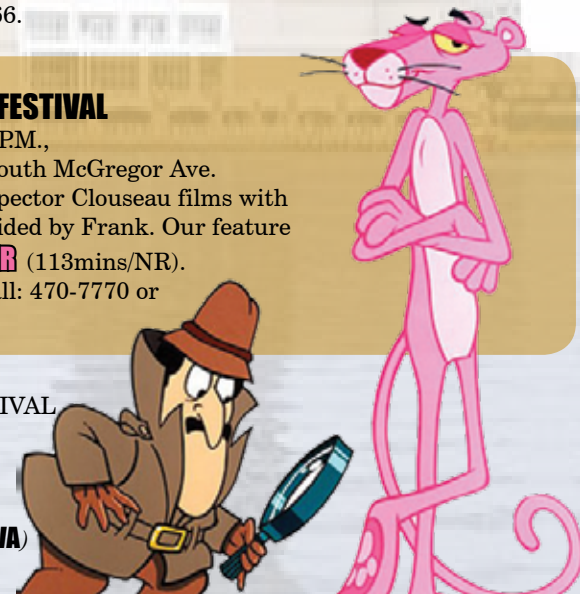
INSPECTOR CLOUSEAU FILM FESTIVAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 5:30 P.M.,
Moorers/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Ave.
Enjoy some of your favorite Inspector Clouseau films with commentary and fun facts provided by Frank. Our feature this month is **THE PINK PANTHER** (113mins/NR).
For more information, please call: 470-7770 or email: ftigner@mplonline.org.

MOBILE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Wednesday, January 20, 7 p.m.,
Bernheim Hall at the Ben May
Main Library, 701 Gov't Street.

(continued on Page 16... see **FLAVA**)



THE FACE OF HOMELESSNESS

Michelle Krulewicz-Dees

Licensed, Professional Counselor
Chief Operations Officer for Housing First, Inc.
Contact Info: 251-445-3481



For most of us, thankfully, homelessness is something we will never experience. However, for some individuals, families, and veterans in our community this state will be a constant struggle.

The homeless in Mobile and Baldwin Counties aren't always what we think; made up of the working poor, those who lost everything due to illness of self or a family member, or other unexpected events. Those experiencing homelessness describe feelings of worthlessness and invisibility within their communities.

Housing First, Inc., as the lead agency for the local Continuum of Care, works with other area agencies, companies, and concerned citizens to develop and implement plans to eradicate homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Various internal programs are used to assist people, families, and veterans where they are to improve their unique situations. Most of the funding for these projects comes from Federal Grants.

Two of these projects are Point in Time count and Project Homeless Connect. These events are held yearly, within 24 hours of each other. They work in tandem to obtain an accurate count of the persons experiencing homelessness and to provide much needed, real time services to those who need them.

The Point in Time count happens in the last two weeks of January annually, nationwide. It was designed this way to serve as a nationwide snapshot of how many persons experiencing homelessness are out there from year to year. This count, along with other data collection throughout the year, is directly related to how much funding each community gets during the funding cycles.

Project Homeless Connect is a one day service fair that makes available a wide array of services that are most often needed by persons struggling with housing. This is a collaborative project, providing everything from haircuts to court appearances with judges and court personnel. The University of South Alabama, Franklin Memorial Clinics, the Mobile County Health Department, and AltaPointe Health Systems work together to provide extensive medical screening, treatment, and make arrangements for follow up where appropriate.

Homelessness, it is indeed a community problem. Thankfully, our community is ready and willing to accept the challenge.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for one or both events can sign up at the United Way Volunteer Connect page... uwsa.org.

Com. Jerry Carl Gives School Kids \$10,000 Computer Lab Update



Mobile County Commission President Jerry Carl presented a check to kids at the Breitling Elementary School computer lab as part of the \$250,000 he has committed to technology upgrades in the county's third district.

The gift brings to more than half a million dollars his commitment to IT upgrades for the district's schools in the last two years. In 2014, Carl contributed \$266,000. The distribution is based on recommendations by the school's IT Department. Breitling will get \$10,000 this year on top of \$20,000 in 2014.

OTHER RECIPIENTS THIS YEAR:

Alba Middle	\$10,000
Baker High	\$15,000
B.C. Rain High	\$10,000
Breitling Elementary	\$10,000
Bryant High.....	\$15,000
Burroughs Elementary	\$10,000
Castlen Elementary	\$10,000
Causey Middle	\$15,000
Davis Elementary.....	\$8,000
Dawes 3-5	\$10,000
Dixon Elementary	\$9,000
Gilliard Elementary	\$10,000
Grand Bay Middle	\$10,000
Hankins Middle.....	\$10,000
Haskew Elementary.....	\$10,000
Hollinger's Island Elementary ..	\$10,000
Hutchens Elementary.....	\$10,000
Murphy High.....	\$15,000
O'Rourke Elementary.....	\$10,000
Pillans Middle	\$10,000
Spencer-Westlawn	\$10,000
St. Elmo Elementary	\$8,000
Theodore High	\$15,000



Ask Flo!



DEAR FLO:

What is the difference between a wife and a mistress? I feel that I deserve some respect.

—Not Just the Other Woman

DEAR MISTRESS:

A marriage certificate. In death the Wife makes all of the decisions about personal and business affairs.

Marriage is a legal contract between two people. A woman who has a legal contract with a man signed by either a judicial official or a religious authority is considered a Wife.

Your second statement leads me to believe that you are struggling with finding your place within a relationship that makes you feel uncertain. To be a Mistress means that you have decided to allow someone else to put you in second place.

When a Man chooses a Wife, he announces to the world that he has made a decision. Respecting you would have included choosing you. No matter what you do with this man, get from this man, or give this man, if he does not decide to cancel his current contract (Divorce) with his Wife, the only titles available to you are Mistress, Other Woman, Baby Mama, Boo, Wifey (like a Wife), etc. I hope you will decide to love yourself and seek a situation that will allow you to be in First Place. ❖

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



SOCK IT TO MOBILE Initiative a Success

Deacon Anthony and Dr. Valerie (Dr. V) James dedicated their time and gift giving during the holiday season for a worthy cause, the Annual “Sock It To Mobile” initiative.

The Annual “Sock It To Mobile” initiative is a sock drive dedicated to collecting and donating 1000 new and gently used socks to Homeless Shelters and Convalescent Homes, while also offering random acts of giving to warm hearts and feet during the holiday season in the Mobile community. “Being generous to the poor and needy honors God (Proverbs 14:31). If God can kiss the feet of his disciples, we can surely put socks on them,” said Dr. V.

Through the generosity of the community, the couple exceeded their goal this year and are looking forward to adding more locations next year.

They were able to donate 110 pairs of socks to Mobile Rescue Mission, 100 pairs to Mercy Life of Alabama, 210 pairs to AltaPointe Health Services, 250 pairs to Sea Breeze Health Care Center, 205 pair to U.J. Robinson Memorial Center, 265 pair to Twin Oaks Rehabilitation Healthcare Center, 135 pair to McKemie Place and 200 pair to Azalea Gardens.

The couple would like to extend their personal and humble gratitude to their title sponsor Volkert Inc. who donated over 150 socks and served as the project drop-off location. They also extend their heartfelt appreciation to everyone, individuals and groups, for their time and effort to respond to the call to action to encourage continuous giving in the community. It is their hope that other couples join the “Sock It to Mobile” Initiative by dedicating their time towards something they are passionate about to share with others in the community and creating a new bucket list that not only include what they want to do, but what they can do for others that is deliberate and actionable and intentional to help the community reach higher levels. ❖

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Mobile County Buys Critical Shoreline Parcel on Mobile Bay

The Mobile County Commission will take ownership of an important ecological maritime forest and tidal marsh, a 233-acre parcel along the western shore of Mobile Bay near Old Fowl River. The land purchase is funded by a \$4.2 million federal conservation grant.

“It’s one of the last remaining maritime forests along the Mobile Bay coastline containing invaluable wetlands supporting a diverse habitat for sea life, plants and animals,” said Mobile County Commission President Jerry Carl. “It’s a privilege and a responsibility to manage and preserve these acres for the future good of the community.”

The project builds upon the Mobile County Commission’s Coastal Impact Assistance Program for habitat conservation and restoration. The program is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Federation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

The Mobile County Commission has so far purchased around 1,000 acres of sensitive land that abut vital natural resources in the county. Most of the land, or 760 acres, is located within the Big Creek Watershed.

“We are blessed with incredible natural resources that need to be protected and preserved,” said Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood. “It’s a matter of preserving the health and beauty of our land.”

The Mobile Bay parcel includes 4,000 feet of shoreline and about 90 acres of brackish marsh characterized by a heavy cover of smooth cordgrass and black needlerush. Forested upland knolls and ridges overlook the marsh. The canopy of trees across the property reflects the absence of logging over a period of 100 years or more.

“A high diversity of plants and birds has been observed on the property,” said Mobile County Commissioner Connie Hudson. “It’s a perfect set-up for a living shoreline on the beach and in the water.” ❖

JAMS PLUS MEDIA

Iration

OCTOBER 13 • THE MOON • Tallahassee

By Robbey Pye



Iration came to Tallahassee to start the leg of their Florida tour last Tuesday at The Moon Venue. The band originates from California so it is interesting to see them over here on the East coast. The Moon is a great venue, a very spacey and unique vibe inside the doors. It is perfect for smaller shows, where a lot of seating is not needed. Iration stopped in Tallahassee Tuesday, then had a day off followed by four straight nights in a row. So, the Tallahassee fans definitely got a good show as far as timing is concerned. The band seemed well-rested, energetic, and ready to party, considering a day to relax was following!

In regards to their performance, they played some solid reggae rock. It was my first time seeing them live, but was similar to a Slightly Stoopid, Rebelution, or Soja sound. I recognized a few of their popular songs, such as "Time Bomb", "Falling", and "Summer Nights" that were played. They also covered the Bob Marley song "Is this Love", which seemed to really hook the crowd. They seemed to stick to their originals for the most part though, which all sounded good. At the end, the band brought a guest performer on stage with a ukulele, which was fun to see and would have been nice to see more like-wise entertainment. Ultimately, Iration played some quality tunes and The Moon did a great job providing those tunes to the city of Tallahassee! ♣

Del & Dawg: A FRIENDSHIP, A RELATIONSHIP,
A 50 YEAR JOURNEY OF TWO MUSICAL LEGENDS
NOVEMBER 15 • THE HAMILTON LIVE • Washington DC



It was 1963 and Del McCoury was playing His first show with the legendary Bill Monroe at New York University in Greenwich Village. Del was playing the banjo but that is a story all of it's own. This, however, is where Del McCoury met David Grisman for the very first time! Three years later, Del & Dawg played their first gig together in Troy, NY at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Shortly after this they both were blessed with the arrival of first-born sons, Monroe Grisman and Ronnie McCoury, within a month of each other. Through the years they have remained great friends and have played many shows together and released several albums as well.

Last night, nearly 50 years from that first show in the spring of 1966, Del & Dawg came to The Hamilton Live in our Nation's Capital to not only blow the roof off with some amazing bluegrass music but to remind us of what is really important in life.... Music, Laughter, and that all important Relationship of Good Friends!

Del & Dawg came out on the stage with a smile and performed a captivating show that was a pleasure to listen to as well as watch! It was obvious how much fun they were having together however what was really obvious was the mutual respect that they each have for one another! 50 years of a path that led apart and back

(continued on Page 10... see **IRATION**)

REVIEWS • REVIEWS

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

My New Years Wish List

As we enter a new year, I want to share my New Year's Wish List for Mobile. I have discussed many of these items before and felt that this was a good time to capture them in a wish list as we begin a new year.

Riverfront Development – We really need to focus our attention on developing our riverfront. The river is our greatest asset and is an economic driver for the region. Yet, it is sorely underutilized by the citizens of Mobile. Public use is squeezed out by heavy industrial use and access to river is almost non-existent. My wish is that significant efforts are made to make it the riverfront the centerpiece of downtown with more enhanced public spaces, residential and commercial development and more attractions to draw people to the riverfront. The recently opened GulfQuest Maritime Museum is a start in the right direction.

Residential Development – To provide adequate housing opportunities for those seeking urban living, we need more residential housing in the downtown and midtown areas. The lifeblood of a thriving city combines residential and commercial options that takes advantage of adaptive use of existing buildings and supplements it with new residential housing stock. My wish is to see new residential projects along Water Street, St. Louis Street, Springhill Avenue and other corridors in the urban core and adjacent neighborhoods. With more residents in these areas, additional businesses will also emerge to support the increased demand for goods and services. More housing will help make downtown resonate during the workday and non-working hours.

Progressive Leadership – The city needs progressive leadership from all levels: city and county government, business and community leaders. This is crucial if we want to be competitive and have the growth that is necessary to be a great city. This means making tough choices, engaging the citizenry and being responsive to the needs and desires of the community. Leadership should be inclusive of all demographics no matter what racial, economic, age or religious groups the constituency falls in. Everyone from Spring Hill to Texas Hill and from Hillcrest Road to Martin Luther King Avenue should have a voice in how the city advances. Strong leadership will help erase the barriers that have limited our progress in the past and be the catalyst for a community that works together for common goals.

Promoting Mobile– Mobile's image as a tourist destination and as a great place to live continues to languish because not enough is done to highlight the city's attributes. We can't let Mardi Gras and the same established tourist attractions be all that we rely on. More emphasis should be placed on the physical qualities such as

(continued on Page 22... see **WISH LIST**)

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Children Driving Golf Carts/ATVs' on Roadways



Dr. Bert Eichold, Health Officer of the Mobile County Health Department would like to encourage safe behavior for ALL in our community. Accidents disrupt the happiness of everyone involved.

MCHD has recently learned that some parents are allowing children to operate golf carts and hunting all-terrain vehicles (ATVs') on the public streets. These vehicles are not licensed and do not have adequate safety equipment for street use as a motor vehicle. They are illegal when used in the streets.

An opinion by Alabama's Attorney General in 2008 supports this view. The opinion stated, "A golf cart is not a vehicle within the definition of section 32-1-1.1(81) or 40-12-240(27) of the Code of Alabama and, therefore, may not be used to traverse the public streets of a municipality."

Citizens are encouraged to take photographs and contact their local police departments if they see such violations. The death or serious injury of a child is something everyone wants to avoid. ♣

IRATION (continued from Page 09)

together again many times, a relationship that continues to grow, a friendship! I could not think of a better setting than The Hamilton Live, 600 14th Street, N.W. Washington, DC to enjoy this performance! Again I give kudos to The Hamilton and all of their staff! They are always pleasant and helpful which adds to the enjoyment of the evening!

Thank You Hamilton Staff, Thank You Del & Dawg! ♣

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DIGITAL MEDIA SUPERVISOR
Telecommunications
Mobile County Public School System



Magnet School Application Period Now Open for Students

MCPSS IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MAGNET SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2016-17

Parents can find the electronic application on the system website at www.mcpss.com. On the front page click "I want to" select "Apply for" and choose "Magnet Schools." Students do not have to meet an academic requirement for acceptance, but once selected must maintain a C average or above to remain in a magnet school. Selection is held through a process of random electronic drawings. To participate in the first drawing, held Monday, February 01, 2016, applications must be in by January 31. Further drawings will be held during March and April of this year.

Ranging from arts to science, magnet schools target specific programs for elementary and middle students. In addition, three of the 6 magnet schools have received the highest academic honor, National Blue Ribbon, from the U.S. Department of Education for public and private schools. For more information, school tours, and learn more about magnet schools, there will be an Open House on Friday, Jan. 22, from 1-6 p.m.; and Saturday, Jan. 23, from 9 a.m. until noon at each magnet school.

**Students must reside within the Mobile County Public Schools' district and may only submit one application.*

Magnet School Application Facts

- Online applications will be open from January 05 to March 31, 2016. No applications accepted after March 31.
- The deadline for participation in the first drawing is January 31.
- **ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER STUDENT WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- Current magnet school students **DO NOT** need to complete an application, however, those students must recommit to the school they are currently attending (or the middle school to which it feeds) if they wish to remain at the current magnet school. A recommit form will be sent home with second quarter report cards.
- Current magnet school students **CANNOT** recommit to their magnet school for the next year **AND** apply for acceptance to a different magnet school.
- Applications completed by students currently enrolled in ANY Mobile County Public School will be populated from information currently in INow. This means information the student's current school has on file will be used in the application.
- If selected, all new 1st - 8th grade applicants **NOT** currently enrolled in Mobile County Public Schools will be required to provide documentation to the Magnet School Office validating age, address, guardianship, and social security number before being receiving a contract. Selected kindergarten students will submit proofs to the selected school. ♣

MAGNET SCHOOLS OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 22 — 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
JANUARY 23 — 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Council Traditional School

(K-5) Accelerated Academics and Communication
751 Wilkinson Street, Mobile 36603

Eichold-Mertz School of Mathematics and Science

(K-5) 2815 Government Boulevard, Mobile 36605

Old Shell Road School of Creative and Performing Arts

(K-5) 3160 Heather Street, Mobile 36607

Clark-Shaw School of Mathematics, Science & Technology

(6-8) 5960 Arlberg Street, Mobile 36603

Dunbar School of Creative and Performing Arts

(6-8) 500 St. Anthony Street, Mobile 36618

Phillips Preparatory School

(6-8) Accelerated Academics and Communication
3255 Old Shell Road, Mobile 36607



SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

2016

MARCH 04: **THE TORTOISE & THE HARE... The Musical**

Aesop's fable gets a fun updated twist in this musical with audience participation. Bunni Hare wins every race, so how will Thomas Tortoise compete? The famous sports reporter Howard Crow-sel will be there to call the "play by play" in this fantastic fable with an ANTI-BULLYING message.

Literature • Theatre • Music • Audience Participation • Character Education — GRADES K-5

❖ **\$5⁰⁰ ADMISSION** ❖



MARCH 25 **QUEEN BESS: The Story of Bessie Coleman**

Born to sharecroppers, Bessie Coleman heard stories from pilots returning home from World War I about flying during the war. She learned to fly in a biplane and became the first woman to earn an international aviation license and the first woman of African-American descent to earn an aviation pilot's license, in 1921. She became a Barnstormer (Stunt Pilot) and quickly gained a reputation as a skilled and daring pilot who would stop at nothing to complete a difficult stunt.

Literature • Theatre • Character Education • History — 4TH GRADE to ADULTS

**This is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) Production!*

❖ **\$8⁰⁰ ADMISSION** ❖



❖ **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED • STUDY GUIDES AVAILABLE** ❖

For More Information Call: 251.533.5726 -or- EMail: legacycenter166@aol.com



February 27

DAR HE: The Story of Emmett Till

Mike Wiley Productions

In 1955, a 14-year-old black Chicago youth traveled to the Mississippi Delta with country kinfolk and southern cooking on his mind. He walked off the train and into a world he could never understand — a world of thick color lines, hard-held class systems and unspeakable taboos. **Performance by MIKE WILEY.**

March 26

QUEEN BESS: The Story of Bessie Coleman

Born to sharecroppers, Bessie Coleman heard stories from pilots returning home from World War I about flying during the war. She learned to fly in a biplane and became the first woman to earn an international aviation license and the first woman of African-American descent to earn an aviation pilot's license, in 1921. She became a Barnstormer (Stunt Pilot) and quickly gained a reputation as a skilled and daring pilot who would stop at nothing to complete a difficult stunt. **Performance by SHERRIE TOLLIVER.**

June 18

The True Story of Huey P. Newton: Revolutionary, Political Activist, PhD

Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, endured jail, police harassment, and drug addiction while serving as Minister of Defense of the Party. While many know the story of Newton and the Party's armed resistance during that turbulent period, few know the story of the programs introduced by the panthers to feed, clothe, educate, and provide healthcare services to their community. **Performance of ALTON LANDRY.**

For More Information Call: 251.533.5726 -or- EMail: legacycenter166@aol.com

49th Annual USS ALABAMA Crewmate Contest

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park is pleased to announce the application process for the 49th Annual USS ALABAMA Crewmate Program will open on Friday, January 8, 2016. Applications may be obtained at Battleship Memorial Park's Gift Shop, 2703 Battleship Parkway; or can be downloaded from their website at www.ussalabama.com/crewmates/. Deadline for application submission is Sunday, February 28, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.

The USS ALABAMA Crewmate Program is open to young women who have reached their 19th birthday by March 25, 2016 and have not reached their 22nd birthday by the same date. All interested applicants must reside in Mobile or Baldwin county during the time of application, and if selected, during their year of service as a Crewmate.

The USS ALABAMA Crewmates represents Battleship Memorial Park and the State of Alabama as ambassadors, promoting the Park and tourism in Alabama at a variety of events and public appearances each year. The young ladies serve as official hostesses during Crewmen Association Reunions; they welcome dignitaries and special guests to the Park, and are on hand during annual events. The Crewmates participate in Veterans Day events, Distinguished Young Women Finals Week events, regional parades, military-related events, and a host of tourism events along the Gulf Coast and across the state.

This year six young women will be selected to serve as Crewmates. Miss USS ALABAMA will receive a \$2,000 scholarship, Miss USS DRUM will receive a \$1,500, and the remaining four Crewmates will receive \$1,000 scholarships, payable to the college or university of their choice.

No entry fee or sponsorships are required to enter the contest. All uniforms and accessories worn during official functions are provided, at no cost to the Crewmates, by the Battleship Commission. Travel expenses for out-of-town activities are also provided.

(continued on Page 16... see **CREWMATE**)

Redemption Beyond My Past

My name is Chris "Champ" Napier and I grew up in one of America's poorest and most racially prejudice cities, Prichard, Alabama. At a very young age I was traumatized by my environment. Before I was four years old, I witnessed the death of my father; the bullet that took my father's life passed right by my head. I was exposed to a life of violence: growing up in a dysfunctional family and community that had me completely unstable.

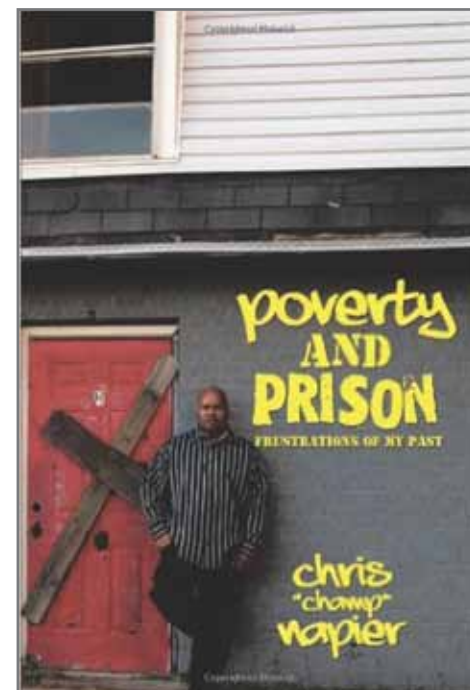
Living in poverty stricken areas, I became very rebellious. During my school years I stayed suspended or expelled, which eventually led to me being put in jail. I consciously admit that it was my total disrespect for the rules at school that contributed to my disregard for human life. I spent the vast majority of my teenage years street poisoned. I experienced a metamorphosis from an innocent child in society to emulating the thug laws, such as using and dealing drugs and alcohol that earned me a life sentence plus seven years at the age of eighteen for first degree murder and distribution of crack cocaine.

Inside the notoriously infamous Alabama Prison System, I experienced culture shock: due to all of the corruption, violence, sexual deviance, and many evil acts like I never seen before. As I tried to become rehabilitated I discovered so many flaws and contradictions in the prison rehabilitation process that I concluded the whole system is a fraud. Out, of disappointment, I began to reform myself by reading books by various African-American authors such as Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Booker T. Washington. By remaining studious my search for reform is complete. During the end of my incarceration, I tutored other inmates, becoming a model inmate. I was allowed to speak to at-risk youth and civic organizations outside of prison.

After fourteen years and eight months of incarceration, I was released. I am now an author of a book entitled "Poverty and Prison: Frustrations of My Past". In this book I offer my story as a case study for all serious students of human development (sociologists, psychologists, teachers, mentors, etc.....).

One of the greatest challenges I've experienced upon my release is not being able to obtain gainful and stable employment due to my conviction. Corporate individuals don't feel as if I am educated and polished enough. Nevertheless, my inspiration comes from the creator of the heavens and the earth. I use opposition as a force to strengthen my drive.

In July 2015, I received a full pardon from the State of Alabama. In addition, I'm filming a documentary entitled "Redemption Beyond My Past", which will reflect the everyday life hardships in our communities and the choices available to those within those communities. This documentary will be released in February 2016. ♣



Powell-Green Named CNB President

Commonwealth National Bank announces the appointment of Jacquitta Powell-Green, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors, to bank president. Powell-Green has a history of involvement with the financial industry. Green has served on the bank's board for 17 years, working on its audit, compliance and human resources committees.

"Jacquitta has a strong track record of accomplishment in the Mobile community, and working with organizations to advance their mission," said Major General J. Gary Cooper, USMC (ret) and retired Chairman of the Board of the bank. "Jacquitta's experience developing talent within her own businesses will be very helpful to CNB as we continue to drive impact that matters."

Powell-Green has served as Vice President of Compliance at Northside Check Exchange since 1999. She graduated with a degree in business administration from Alabama A&M University in 1991 and received her M.B.A. from Spring Hill College in 1995.

"I'm deeply honored to lead CNB," said Ms. Green. "I look forward to collaborating with our staff to continue to lead our bank in quality and innovation. This bank is part of the community, and I want to see that reflected in everything we do, from customer service to philanthropy to lending. Together, we make an impact that matters every day for our clients, the banking community, and Mobile County".

Powell-Green also is very active in Mobile community. She volunteers on the boards of several organizations, including Penelope House and the Boys and Girls Club of South Alabama. She is committed to Mobile, making it home with her husband and two sons.

"I appreciate the full scope of this responsibility, and I look forward to leading our Board of Directors in executing our charter of governance and oversight. I know through constructive and candid dialogue in the business and banking community in Mobile, as well as among our partnership, together we can continue to increase CNB's impact among all our stakeholders".

Commonwealth National Bank can be reached at 251-476-5938 or at email@ecommonwealthbank.com. ♣



Jacquitta Powell-Green

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**

It's That Time of the Year

Once again, we get to experience a new season while welcoming in a new year. Let us not forget the parties.... oh my! Once again, I get to see dry brittle under moisturized hair and/or the move toward “protective styling.” Good, bad, or indifferent, the struggle is real. The change in seasons is starting to be felt, and humidity level is changing, heaters are starting to run; wool is being found in, on or around hair. Our talented kitchen beauticians are “tending” to those strands in very interesting ways. I digress.... Overall, snow or no snow.... Enjoy! Please take a minute to appreciate the fact you have hair! There are those amongst us that cannot grow their hair or have lost or in the midst of losing it. There are people struggling trying to find out why they have lost hair, while others revel in the fact that they can choose new looks without wearing hair pieces. This includes children. Be kind to each other.

Looking forward to 2016, Locs of Soul will be establishing a few support groups for issues such as Trichotillomania (hair pulling/skin picking), CCCA (Scarring Alopecia), and Alopecia Areata. If there is a group out there I do not establish something with, please feel free to build a support group. Education starts with one person willing to share knowledge. Locs of Soul is also planning a surprise for Mobile! (Sorry.....cannot tell you yet!) However, I know you will enjoy it! People, this year has been an interesting one to say the least. It has been with much gratitude, introspective moments, redirection, education, and change! For all that, I say THANK YOU!

Therefore, as we enter into 2016 with the element of change....I cannot let you go without at a few hair tips!

1. **MOISTURIZE AND CONDITION** your hair! Especially if you wear your hair exposed to elements. Do not forget to drink water!!
2. **COVER YOUR HAIR** with a silk or satin scarf or bonnet before placing a wool or cotton accessory on your hair. This minimizes dryness and lint. Cotton absorbs moisture. Protect those strands!
3. **DEEP CONDITION** your hair at least once a month (minimum). The elements and environment takes a lot out of our hair.
4. **EXERCISE!** Keep that blood circulating and the stress low. Blood is the real “hair food.” If the blood is stagnant or you are experiencing stress, the hair will show it.
5. **GIVE YOUR HAIR A REST** from the wear and tear. The “protective style” go to is calling! This will allow the hair to grow without being prone to further damage. ❀



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Charitable Pharmacy Announces Board Officers

Mr. Wiley Christian, Spring Hill Memorial Hospital, continues to serve a fourth term as President of the Board. During Mr. Christian's leadership the Pharmacy has seen tremendous growth including the recent relocation of the pharmacy to a new facility and a rebirth of the partnership with United Way of Southwest Alabama. "I am excited to continue leading this dynamic group of people who care so deeply about this wonderful

Also remaining serving a fourth term is Mrs. Cathy Whelton, retired Providence Hospital as Board Vice President. Mrs. Linda Grayson, Mercy Life, remains as the board secretary and finally; and Susan Herring, Springhill Temple remains as Treasurer. Donald Hodges, Regions Bank, and Marcia Allan, Escambia County Health Department, have both stepped down from the board. Casey Grant from Escambia County Health Department joins the board and Al Tenhundfeld, retired Ronald McDonald House Mobile, rejoins the board after some time away.

The 2016 Board of Directors for Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy includes: Wes Chiniche; Wiley Christian; Patricia Hall, Julie McGee; Dr. Stephen A. Kahalley; Chris Griffin, Mike Molyneux, Sister Marilyn Graf, Martha Allegri, Vernon Coleman, Dr. Allison Chung Tice, Moren Braswell, Linda Grayson, Christine Cumbie, Cathy Whelton, Susan Herring; Danny Cottrell, Tuerk Schlesinger, Mary Stone, Al Tenhundfeld, Casey Grant and Susan Stiegler. Each Board Member volunteers many hours to assist in guiding the operations of the Ozanam Pharmacy to ensure the community's needs are met in the most cost effective way possible.

To learn more about the Ozanam Pharmacy call (251) 432-4111 or visit our web site at www.ozanampharmacy.org. ❀

CREWMATE (continued on Page 14)

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 newly created USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park. The program has offered more than 200 young ladies the opportunity to serve in this position and to receive scholarship funds to the school of their choice. The Crewmates have dedicated thousands of community service hours to both Battleship Memorial Park and the State of Alabama.

For more information, please call Lynne Price at 251-438-2834 or visit www.ussalabama.com/crewmates/. ❀



Al Tenhundfeld

Ronald McDonald House Mobile (ret.)



Casey Grant

Escambia County Health Department

FLAVA (continued from Page 06)

Hester Street is a 1975 classic film which tells the story of Jewish immigrants who came from Europe to the lower east side of New York in 1896, and the challenges they faced. Carol Kane, who stars in the film, was nominated for best actress, and in 2011 the film was selected for preservation in the National Film Registry. Admission is free, but reservations are required. For further information or to make reservations, please contact the Mobile Area Jewish Federation at 251-343-7197 or mobilejewishfederation.org.

POETRY ENTHUSIASTS

Monday, January 25, 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, please call 438-7075.

CLASSICS REVISITED BOOK CLUB

Monday, January 25, 6:30 p.m., Ben May Main Library, 701 Government Street. Join us the last Monday of the month for some lively book discussions on some of our favorite classics. This month's topics of discussion are *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner. For more information, please call 208-7902.

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

Saturday Rabies Clinics

The Mobile County Health Department provides low cost rabies shots for cats, dogs and ferrets during weekend clinics. Here's a list of the rabies clinics planned for Saturdays during January in Mobile County:

- January 02, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., City of Mobile Animal Shelter, 855 Owens St.
- January 09, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Pet Supplies Plus, 803 Hillcrest Road, Mobile
- January 16, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., City of Mobile Animal Shelter, 855 Owens St.
- January 23, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., B&B Pet Stop, 5035 Cottage Hill Road
- January 30, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., City of Mobile Animal Shelter, 855 Owens St.

The cost of rabies vaccine per pet is \$10, except at Pet Supplies Plus, which is \$8, all payable in cash. Our Rabies Officer has vaccinated a total of 1,973 pets from January 2015 – December 2015.

ABOUT RABIES

Rabies is a virus that attacks the central nervous system. It is transmitted from infected mammals to man and is fatal once symptoms appear. Symptoms of rabies include unusual behavior, irritability, headache, fever, inability to eat or drink, balance problems, circling, seizures, coma, and, finally, death. All warm-blooded mammals, including humans, are susceptible to rabies. Exposure to rabies may be minimized by eliminating all stray cats and dogs; having pet dogs, cats and ferrets vaccinated; staying away from wild animals, especially those acting abnormally; and not keeping exotic or wild animals as pets, health officials said. ❀



THE REAL ENEMY — THE INNER ME

by A.D. McKinley

Essence of Life!

BELIEVING IN SOMETHING GREATER!

SUGGESTIVE THEORY:

Life began in the mind of a spiritual supreme being known as the Creator, or God. The Creator designed and established everything with hope, grace, freewill and love. I believe the Creator created human beings to be unique for companionship and to love one another with our differences. Simply, companionship is established only for communication and achievement.

Communication is the expression and exchange of thoughts to empower and be a catalyst for positive behavior. Achievement is established to encourage each person to strive to accomplish a variety of things for internal change and maturation. The power of both communication and achievement manifest in love and love overrules all evil intentions and negative forces. Creating positive behavior, thoughts, and speaking positively is very important to how you view things, feel about self, and other people. You can influence more people with positive energy and behavior, even when things are not going your way.

I believe the Creator placed the ability to communicate, achieve, and love innately within each of us in order to persevere to accomplish our individual destinies. As individuals we need to realize that we all born with unique abilities. However, we are each given the choice to discover and use our abilities for the greater good toward all mankind. Our failures are shortcomings designed to teach us how to reinvent behaviors for more positive outcomes. ♣



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2015 Gardberg Leadership Award Winners

Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy's 2015 Gardberg Leadership Award recipient is Steven Cumbie, President of Lanier Construction, Inc.

Each year the Board of Directors of Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy recognizes a member of the community who is instrumental in the mission of the pharmacy. This award is named after Jonathan Gardberg because Gardberg exemplifies the spirit of the pharmacy's namesake, Frederic Ozanam. Like Ozanam, the founder of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Gardberg is

an attorney who helps the sick and disabled with his social security and veterans disability practice. Besides helping with fundraising for the pharmacy, Gardberg helped to establish the agency's first newsletter and directs those who are in need of medication to the pharmacy.

"Mr. Cumbie and his family have been longtime supporters of the pharmacy's mission, even before they helped us relocate to our new and needed home. Through supporting Ozanam's fundraisers, to connecting us to different civic organizations, we cannot thank you enough." Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy's Executive Director, Shearie Archer, said during the award presentation. Archer continued to explain that because of supporters like Mr. Cumbie, Ozanam will be able to continue to provide medications at no cost to those in need in Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia Counties.

For more information about Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy or the Jonathan Gardberg Community Leadership Award, please call Shearie Archer at (251) 432-4111 or visit the pharmacy's website at <http://www.ozanampharmacy.org/www.ozanampharmacy.org>. ♣



Infant Mortality Rate in Alabama Remains Stable in 2014

The Alabama Department of Public Health announces that the state's infant mortality rate of 8.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014 remained stable. Infant mortality nationally was 5.8 in 2014.

A total of 517 infants born in Alabama died before reaching 1 year of age in 2014; there were 59,532 live births to state residents during the year. For reasons not fully understood, perennial disparities in infant mortality between black and white infants continue. The 2014 infant mortality rate for black infants was more than twice that of white infants--13.9 per 1,000 for blacks and 6.0 for whites. The disparity exists for both Alabama and the U.S.

Acting State Health Officer Dr. Tom Miller said, "We must enhance strategies to reduce infant mortality. We hope to address modifiable risk factors that have been shown to contribute to poor birth outcomes."

Twenty-three percent of births in 2014 were to mothers with an interval between births of less than two years. Only 75 percent of births in 2014 were to women who had adequate prenatal care.

Teen births and teen smoking during pregnancy are risk factors that contribute to infant mortality, and both are trending in a positive direction. The percentage of births to teens (8.5) and the percentage of teen mothers who smoked (9.7) are the lowest ever recorded in Alabama. Another positive indicator in 2014 is that the percentage of elective early deliveries decreased slightly. The percent of births at less than 37 weeks of pregnancy declined to 11.7 in 2014 from 11.8 in 2013.

Alabama's infant mortality rates in recent years are as follows: 2013-8.6, 2012-8.9, 2011-8.1, 2010-8.7.

Graphs and detailed charts on infant mortality are available at the Alabama Department of Public Health website at <http://adph.org/healthstats>. ♣

2016 Mardi Gras Schedule

JANUARY

09: SATURDAY	Krewe De La Dauphine	1:00 pm	DI
16: SUNDAY	Island Mystics	1:00 pm	DI
	Order of Rolling River	2:00 pm	DIP
22: FRIDAY	Conde Cavalier Parade	6:30 pm	Rte A
23: SATURDAY	Bayport Parading Society	2:30 pm	Rte A
	Pharaohs Mystic Society Parade	6:30 pm	Rte A
	Order of Hebe	7:00 pm	Rte A
	Conde Explorers	7:30 pm	Rte A
24: SUNDAY	Krewe de la Heron Lakes	2:00 pm	HL
	Prichard MGA Royal Coronation	6:00 pm	
27: WEDNESDAY	Mystics of Ashland Place Parade	12:30 pm	AP
28: THURSDAY	Order of the Polka Dots Parade	6:30 pm	Rte A
29: FRIDAY	Order of the Inca Parade	6:30 pm	Rte A
	Apollo's Mystic Ladies Parade	6:45 pm	Daph
	Prichard MGA Grand Marshall's Ball	9:00 pm	
30: SATURDAY	Hickory Ridge Kids Krewe	10:00 am	T. Cir.
	Mobile Mystics Parade	2:00 pm	Rte A
	Mobile Mystical Revelers	2:30 pm	Rte A
	Mamga Junior Court Luncheon	3:30 pm	
	Maids of Mirth Parade	6:30 pm	Rte A
	Knights of Ecor Rouge Parade	6:45 pm	Fhope
	Order of Butterfly Maidens Parade	7:00 pm	Rte A
	Krewe of Marry Mates Parade	7:30 pm	Rte A
31: SUNDAY	Mystics of Children	2:00 pm	R. Dr.
	Crewe of Woodmont	2:00 pm	Daph
	Mamga Jr. Monarch's Coronation	5:00 pm	
	Neptune's Daughter Parade	6:30 pm	Rte A
	Order of Isis	7:00 pm	Rte A

FEBRUARY

01: MONDAY	Order of Venus	6:30 pm	Rte A
	Order of Many Faces	7:00 pm	Rte A
02: TUESDAY	Order of LaShe's Parade	6:30 pm	Rte A
04: THURSDAY	Order of Impalas	10:00 pm	St. Ig
	Mystic Strippers Parade	6:30 pm	Rte A

05: FRIDAY	Crewe of Columbus Parade	6:30 pm	Rte A
	Mystical Order of Mirams Parade	6:30 pm	OB
	Maids of Jubilee Parade	6:45 pm	Fhope
	MAMGA Grand Marshall's Ball	10:00 pm	

06: SATURDAY	Krewe of Kids Parade	11:00 am	Pchard
	Foley Parade	11:00 am	Foley
	Mystic Revelers Parade	12:00 pm	B.Min
	Krewe of Goats	12:00 pm	Pchard
	MCA Floral Parade	12:00 pm	Rte A
	Knights of Mobile Parade	12:30 pm	Rte A
	Mobile Cadets	12:45 pm	Rte A
	Mobile Mystical Ladies Parade	1:00 pm	Rte A
	Order of Angels Parade	1:30 pm	Rte A
	Krewe of Mullet Mates	2:00 pm	M. Pte
	Mystics of Pleasure Parade	5:30 pm	OB
	Mystics of Time Parade	6:00 pm	Rte A
	Coronation of King Felix III and Queen (Convention Center)	6:30 pm	
	Shadow Barons Parade	6:45 pm	Daph

07: SUNDAY	Arrival of King Elexis I (@foot of Government Street)	2:00 pm	
	Loyal Order of the Firetruck	2:00 pm	Daph
	Joe Cain Parade	2:30 pm	Rte A
	Le Krewe de Bienville Parade	5:00 pm	Rte A
	Coronation of King Elexis I	8:15 pm	C. Ctr

08: MONDAY	MCA King Felix III Parade	12:00 pm	Rte A
	Floral Parade	12:00 pm	Rte A
	Prichard MGA Parade	1:00 pm	Prichard
	MLK BCO Parade	3:00 pm	Rte D
	MLK Monday Mystic Adult Parade	3:30 pm	Rte D
	Northside Merchants Parade	4:00 pm	Rte D
	Order of Mystic Magnolias Parade	6:45 pm	Fhope
	Infant Mystics Parade	7:00 pm	Rte F
	Order of Doves	7:30 pm	Rte F

09: FAT TUESDAY

Gulf Shores Parade	10:00 am	GS
Order of Athena Parade	10:30 am	Rte A
Knights of Revelry Parade	12:30 pm	Rte A
King Felix Parade	1:00 pm	Rte A
Comic Cowboys Parade	1:30 pm	Rte A
Orange Beach Parade	2:00 pm	OB
MAMGA	2:00 pm	Rte B
Order of Myths Parade	6:30 pm	Rte C

CALENDAR

January 2016

MOBILE

CONCERTS

Black Jacket Symphony-Saenger Theatre, 1/9
Gold City-Cottage Hill Baptist Church, 1/9
Earphunk-Soul Kitchen, 1/14
A Live One-Phish Tribute-Soul Kitchen, 1/16
Permagroove-The Brickyard, 1/16
Aaron Crabb, Adam Crabb, The Bowling Family,
The Crabb Family, Terah Crabb Penhollow
-Dauphin Way Baptist Church, 1/16
Adam Crabb-Gracepointe Church of God, 1/17
Rayland Baxter-Callaghan's, 1/20
Marc Broussard-Soul Kitchen, 1/22
Luke Combs-Midnight Rodeo, 1/22
J.W. Teller-The Blind Mule, 1/22
Surfer Blood-The Merry Widow, 1/22
The Marcus King Band-O'Daly's, 1/23
Dylan LeBlanc-Callaghan's, 1/24
Robert Ellis-Callaghan's, 1/27
Grace Potter-Saenger Theatre, 1/28
Curren\$y-Soul Kitchen, 1/29

MUSEUMS

—Explorem

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 & II, ON-GOING

Walls and Halls, ON-GOING

CSS Alabama Cannon, ON-GOING

—Phoenix Fire Museum

Steam Engines, Motorized Vehicles, Gallery; ON-GOING

SPORTS — Men's College Basketball

Bishop State vs. Wallace (Selma), 1/12
Bishop State vs. Enterprise, 1/19
Bishop State vs. Faulkner, 1/21
Spring Hill vs. Fort Valley State, 1/7
Spring Hill vs. Albany State, 1/9
Spring Hill vs. Stillman, 1/23
Spring Hill vs. Mobile, 1/25
Spring Hill vs. Lane, 1/28

Univ. of Mobile vs. Middle Georgia State, 1/2
Univ. of Mobile vs. Dalton State, 1/4
Univ. of Mobile vs. William Carey, 1/21
Univ. of Mobile vs. Blue Mountain, 1/23
USA vs. Arkansas State, 1/2
USA vs. Texas State, 1/14
USA vs. Texas Arlington, 1/16
USA vs. Appalachian State, 1/30
Sports-Women's College Basketball
Bishop State vs. Enterprise, 1/19
Bishop State vs. Faulkner, 1/21
Spring Hill vs. Fort Valley State, 1/7
Spring Hill vs. Albany State, 1/9
Spring Hill vs. Stillman, 1/23
Spring Hill vs. Lane, 1/28
Univ. of Mobile vs. Middle Georgia State, 1/2
Univ. of Mobile vs. Brenau, 1/4
Univ. of Mobile vs. Xavier, 1/13
Univ. of Mobile vs. William Carey, 1/21
Univ. of Mobile vs. Blue Mountain, 1/23
USA vs. Arkansas State, 1/2
USA vs. Texas State, 1/14
USA vs. Texas Arlington, 1/16
USA vs. Appalachian State, 1/30

ATLANTA

CONCERTS

Delbert McClinton-Variety Playhouse, 1/2
Grace Potter-The Tabernacle, 1/16
John Sabastian-Eddie's Attic, 1/16
DR. John-Eddie's Attic, 1/19
Madonna-Phillips Arena, 1/20
Reverend Horton Heat, Nashville Pussy, Unknown Hinson,
Igor & Red Elvises-Terminal West, 1/21
Art Garfunkel-The Buckhead Theatre, 1/29
Johnny Mathis-Cobb Arts Centre, 1/29
Ramsey Lewis-Rialto Center, 1/30
Naughty By Nature-The Masquerade, 1/31

FAMILY SHOWS

Peppa Pig Live-Cobb Arts Centre, 1/31

BILOXI

CONCERTS

The Music of ABBA (Arrival From Sweden)
-IP Casino, Resort and Spa, 1/1-2
Whiskey Kiss-IP Chill Lounge, 1/1-2
Joe Nichols-IP Casino, Resort and Spa, 1/8
Lewis Black-Beau Rivage Resort, 1/8
Englebert Humperdinck-IP Casino, Resort and Spa, 1/15
Kool & The Gang-Beau Rivage Resort, 1/15
Earl Thomas Conley-Hard Rock Live, 1/15
Scott Stapp-Level Nightclub, 1/16
Jon Pardi-Coliseum, 1/21
Dan + Shay-Coliseum, 1/23
Todd Rundgren-IP Casino, Resort & Spa, 1/23
Adelitas Way, Failure Anthem, Through The Fire,
Eye On Attraction-Kress Live, 1/23

Robert Earl Keen-Kress Live, 1/28
The Fab Four - The Ultimate Tribute-Hard Rock
Hotel & Casino, 1/29
Josh Turner-IP Casino, Resort & Spa, 1/29
O.A.R.-Beau Rivage Resort, 1/29

BIRMINGHAM

CONCERTS

Gregg Allman-Iron City, 1/5-6
Grace Potter-Iron City, 1/14
Ron White-Alabama Theatre, 1/14
Gary Owen- Stardome, 1/14-17
Dianne Reeves-1/17, Library Theatre
Art Garfunkel-Samford University, 1/26
FAMILY SHOWS
Peppa Pig Live-Cobb Arts Centre, 1/28

FAIRHOPE

CONCERTS

Amelia White-The Bone and Barrel, 1/16
Satisfaction (Rolling Stone Tribute)-Civic Center, 1/30

LOXLEY

CONCERTS

Branson On The Road-Civic Center, 1/22

MOSS POINT

CONCERTS

Gold City, Jeff & Sheri Easter-Three Rivers Assembly of God, 1/29

NEW ORLEANS

CONCERTS

Avant, Dru Hill, Jagged Edge-Lakefront Arena, 1/23
Colin Hay-House of Blues, 1/26
Little River Band-Jefferson Center, 1/27
Barry Manilow-Smoothie King Center, 1/29

SPORTS — Pro Basketball

Pelicans vs. Dallas Mavericks, 1/6
Pelicans vs. Detroit Pistons, 1/8
Pelicans vs. Charlotte Hornets, 1/15
Pelicans vs. Minnesota Timberwolves, 1/19
Pelicans vs. Detroit Pistons, 1/21
Pelicans vs. Milwaukee Bucks, 1/23
Pelicans vs. Houston Rockets, 1/25
Pelicans vs. Sacramento Kings, 1/28
Pelicans vs. New Jersey Nets, 1/30

OCEAN SPRINGS

CONCERTS

Caroline Cotter-Government Street Grocery, 1/9

PENSACOLA

CONCERTS

Kate Keys John-Flounders, 1/10
Reverend Horton Heat, Nashville Pussy, Unknown Hinson,
Igor & Red Elvises-Vinyl Music Hall, 1/13
Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, New Breed Brass
Band-Vinyl Music Hall, 1/14
Kottonmouth Kings, Capitol Steps-Vinyl Music Hall, 1/15

(continued on Page 22... see CALENDAR)

PASSINGS THOUGHOUT 2015



ERNIE TERRELL
JANUARY



KEN WEATHERWAX
JANUARY



BRYAN BURWELL
JANUARY



JOE COCKER
JANUARY



ANDRAÉ CROUCH
FEBRUARY



MARIO CUOMO
FEBRUARY



STUART SCOTT
FEBRUARY



DR. JAMES LOWE
MARCH



CHARLIE SIFFORD
MARCH



DEAN SMITH
MARCH



LEONARD NIMOY-83
APRIL



WENDELL MIDDLEBROOKS
APRIL



ROBERT H. SCHULLER
MAY



PERCY SLEDGE
MAY



B.B. KING
JUNE



BEN E. KING-76
JUNE



LAST MR. BIGG-MOBILE
JUNE



MARVA COLLINS
JULY



REYNALDO REY
JULY



DUSTY RHODES
JULY



MEL WAITERS
JULY



SANDRA BLAND
AUGUST



KEN STABLER
AUGUST



BOBBI KRISTINA BROWN
SEPTEMBER



ROWDY RODDY PIPER
SEPTEMBER



MOSES MALONE
OCTOBER



YOGI BERRA
OCTOBER



PAUL PRUDHOMME
NOVEMBER

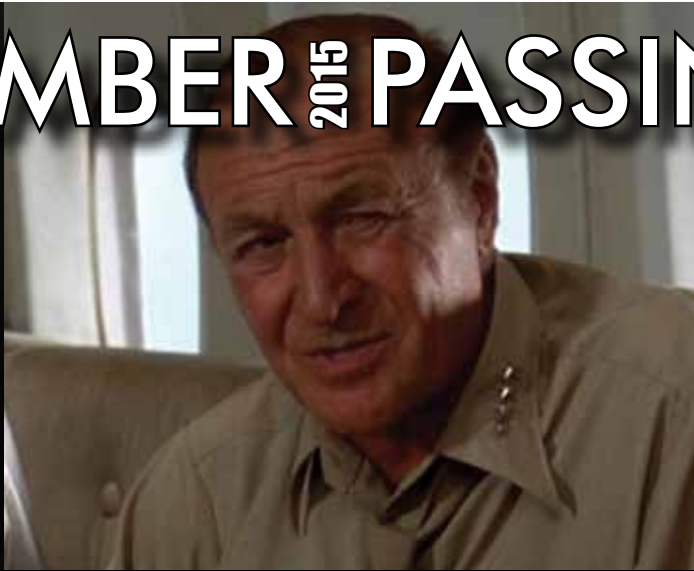
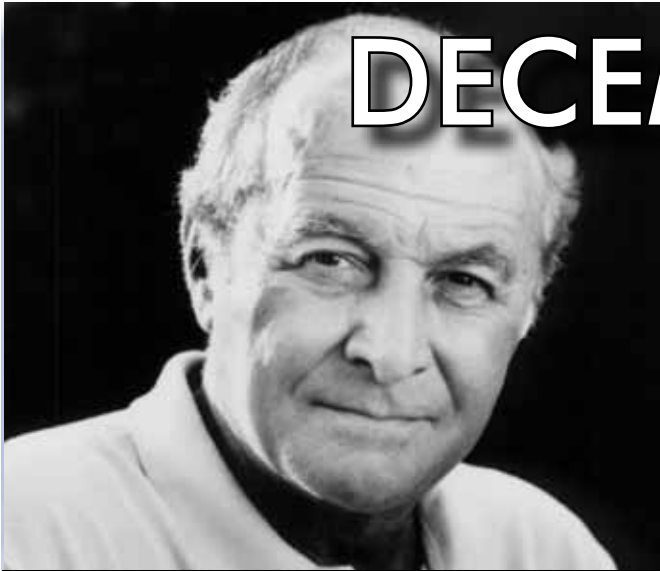


MAUREEN O'HARA
NOVEMBER



SIDNEY PHILLIPS-MOBILE
NOVEMBER

DECEMBER ²⁰¹⁵ PASSINGS



ROBERT LOGGIA-85 • ACTOR • ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



RITCH BRINKLEY-71
ACTOR
Cabin Boy



ARTHUR BROOKS-82
SINGER
The Impressions



MARTIN E. BROOKS-90
ACTOR
Dallas



DAVID CANARY-77
ACTOR
All My Children



NORBERT GASTELL-86
VOICE ACTOR
Homer Simpson



MARJORIE LORD-97
The Danny Thomas Show



MARQUE LYNCH-34
SINGER
American Idol



NATHANIEL MARSTON-40
ACTOR
One Life to Live
Car Accident



WILL MCMILLAN-71
ACTOR
The Crazies



WARREN MITCHELL-89
ACTOR
Till Death Us Do Part



AL MOLINARO-96
ACTOR
Happy Days
Infected Gall Bladder



CYNTHIA ROBINSON-71
Sly and the Family Stone
Cancer



BETH ROGAN-84
ACTRESS
Mysterious Island



DOLPH SCHAYES-87
NBA PLAYER
76ers
Cancer



PAUL STEWART-89
FOUNDER OF THE BLACK
AMERICAN WEST MUSEUM
AND HERITAGE CENTER



OZELL SUTTON-90
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST



FRED THOMPSON-73
POLITICIAN/ACTOR
Lymphoma



ALLEN TOUSSAINT-77
MUSICIAN/SONGWRITER
Heart Attack



SCOTT WEILAND-48
MUSICIAN
STONE TEMPLE PILOTS



**JOHN "HOT ROD"
WILLIAMS-53**
NBA PLAYER
Cavaliers, Suns
Prostate Cancer

EXPRESSIONS: RIGHT OR WRONG

Lisa Johnson — A Poet and Writer who lives in Mobile



Have you ever been around an individual whose disposition changed due to receiving a promotion? In the voice of my five-year-old great niece, I say, “what the world” while shaking my head. What happened to that laid back, down to earth, easy to talk to person? Please don’t get me wrong, I understand there has to be some changes but don’t act all brand new as if you don’t remember where you came from. There is absolutely nothing wrong with rolling up your sleeves to pitch in when you see that your employees need help? After all if the deadline isn’t met, it’s a direct reflection on your leadership. If you have been promoted to a supervisor position, don’t forget to give your employees commendations. When an employee feels valued and appreciated, they will go the extra mile to make you shine and look good. “Way to go” “I appreciate all that you do” “Thank you” is just a few expressions to convey to your employees in order to boost their morale. Then there are some people who are promoted with no authority and yet they began to act like they are your boss. I’ll be the first to congratulate you but don’t get the big head and start looking down on your fellow co-workers.

Also, if your employees have innovative ideas don’t try to pass them off as yours; be honest and give credit where it is due. With greater authority comes increased responsibility. Learn to strike a balance and if you don’t have a sense of humor, learn to develop one. Just because you are placed in a position of authority, it doesn’t allow you the right to be a tyrant or dictator. After all the Greatest Man Jesus walked the earth and yet he humbly came to earth and ministered to others in a kind loving way. Even when his disciples were arguing amongst themselves who were the greatest, not even considering they had the greatest among them, Jesus kindly readjusted their thinking. He never wielded his authority over them. He even humbly performed the menial task of a house servant by washing the feet of his disciples. Now who really should have been washing whose feet? Learn humility and be a good leader if you aren’t one already. (Luke 22:24-27; John 13:12-16) ❖

WISH LIST (continued from Page 10)

the river, bay and delta and on the city’s heritage. The city has to be progressive and bring in new attractions and amenities that appeal to the younger generations while balancing that against our traditional ones.

This is my wish list for Mobile. I realize that it will take more than wishing to make these things happen. I pray that God will bless us all this new year and make each of us more thankful for what we have. Let’s all work together in the coming years to make these things a reality. ❖

CALENDAR (continued from Page 19)

Galactic, The Record Company-Vinyl Music Hall, 1/19
Jesco White-Vinyl Music Hall, 1/22
Humming House-Vinyl Music Hall, 1/23
Ana Popovic-Vinyl Music Hall, 1/26
Dumpstaphunk-Vinyl Music Hall, 1/28
Barry Manilow, Dave Koz-Bay Center, 1/28
Tool, Primus, 3Teeth-Flora-Bama Lounge, 1/30

STAGE PLAY
THE PRODUCERS-SAENGER, 1/5
SYMPHONY
Pensacola Symphony-Saenger, 1/9

SILVERHILL
CONCERTS
Malcombe Holcombe-Blue Moon Farm, 1/17

THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX



Arthur L. Mack
FREELANCE WRITER
Mobile, Alabama

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What’s Next for Us?

The year 2015 was a very unusual year for African-Americans.

From unarmed black men (and women) being brutalized, and in far too many cases, murdered by police officers, to the 50th anniversary on the Selma to Montgomery march, to the fallout at the University of Missouri, and to remarks made by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia that Blacks would be better off in less advanced or slower track universities, African-Americans were always in the news — or in some cases, the cross hairs — of public opinion.

It was a very crazy year indeed.

In 61 years of life, I’ve never seen Blacks face such craziness as they did in 2015. It sort of rivaled the Civil Rights Movement, without the accomplishments. And unfortunately, the craziness is liable to get even stronger in 2016, because there are still far too many unanswered questions.

One of those questions is whether or not there will be those individuals who will stand up to rogue cops and punish them to the fullest extent of the law. Another is whether or not people will stand idly by and allow hard-earned rights be eaten away by lawmakers who want to turn back the clock and relegate Black people to second-class citizenship — not that we’re not almost there already.

Yet another question is this — can Black people survive this latest onslaught of attacks?

Some say that we can’t — not as long as we remain fragmented. A long time ago — in the 30s, 40s, 50s, and even 60s — we were united in one purpose. There were no distractions such as gangsta rap, celebrity beefs, reality shows and other crazy things that took up precious time that would have been better served getting people together. But something changed. The ones who were still hard in the struggle had new challenges — Black-on-Black crime, the introduction of drugs into the community, a widening gap between Black men and Black women, and tough economic times. It meant that they had failed to use new tactics in winning the battle for equality.

Sometimes, they succeeded. More often than not, they failed. It was indeed a frustrating battle, as sometimes, their pleas for unity went unheeded. Often, they were called militants, were ridiculed, or worse. Still, they pressed on, and did some great things.

In other words, they kept their eyes on the prize.

That’s the kind of attitude we are going to have to have in order to make sure we as a people survive 2016 — and beyond. For what happened in 2015 could have very dire consequences for us in 2016. I expect the number of police brutality cases to increase. In addition, I expect hateful rhetoric to increase, mostly because of the Presidential race and some of the hopefuls that are vying for the office playing on people’s fears.

What we have to do as a people is to stay strong, and persevere through all of this crap. After all, despite all of the silliness that we as a people tend to get into, we are still a strong, proud people. And it’s going to take that strength in order to not only survive, but thrive if we want to be treated as full human beings in 2016 — and beyond. ❖

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LEGACY 166



MARKETING YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS

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



3 Easy Steps for a Better You in 2016

“You do not need to brag about yourself, let your work speak for you”. I heard this from many of my elders and to a point that is correct. Yet, there is a difference between bragging and marketing. Bragging gratifies your ego, while marketing creates awareness. Today’s challenging economy requires respect of old school values, with an upgrade on tactics. If you want a successful career you must create positive awareness:

PERCEPTION

People utilize their emotions and senses to establish a perception of who you are. You cannot change it, so take advantage of it. Question: What do you want people to think of you (enterprising, successful, organized, smart etc...)? The next step is to develop the perception with attire, body language, etiquette, vocabulary and a value point.

Based on your answer create a unique but conservative image. Consider your industry and the position you want to acquire. There are many people who still read body language. Do your research and strengthen your non verbal communication. You will be surprised to how using simple etiquette will open doors for you; be knowledgeable of the core rules. Your vocabulary should always exceed your position, but be able to speak in layman terms.

What is the one attribute that you possess which you feel is unique, can create or save revenue? This is your core feature along with two character strengths. Highlight how you utilize these to create positive outcomes.

ELEVATOR SPEECH

Describe in 2-3 sentences, your goals and how others benefit. Example:
My name is Nathaniel Patterson, companies and individuals seek my services to turnaround underperforming units, enhance revenue or gain more exposure. I am seeking entrepreneurial companies, nonprofits and career professionals. What are your goals?

NETWORKING

You cannot be an island. You need people to identify opportunities (you must reciprocate). Now present the greatly enhance you. Select activities and events that influencers or your target market will be in attendance. I have found that nonprofit boards, performing arts, chambers of commerce and golf presented good opportunities.

NOTE: Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Growth Alliance Task Force meets the first Tuesday of every month at noon. The Task Force promotes the awareness and growth of minority businesses. ♣



LAUGHTER

Wrong Side of the Family!!!

A child asked his father, Leroy, “How were people born?” Leroy said, “Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on.” The child then went to his mother, Willie Mae, asked her the same question and she told him, “We were apes then we evolved to become like we are now.” The child ran back to his father and said, “You lied to me!” Leroy replied, “No, your mom was talking about her side of the family!!!” ☺

What Did I Miss???

Leroy shows up late for work. His boss yells, ‘You should’ve been here at 8.30!’ Leroy looks around and says, ‘Why? What happened at 8.30???’ ☺

A Rich Man!!!

Leroy is on his deathbed, knowing the end is near. He is with his nurse, his wife, his daughter, and two sons. “So,” he says to them, “Tyrone, I want you to take the Beverly Hills houses. Hattie, you take the apartments over in Los Angeles Plaza. Willie, I want you to take the offices over in City Center. Willie Mae, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings downtown.” The nurse is just blown away by all this, and as Leroy slips away, she says, “Mrs. Johnson, your husband must have been such a hard working man to have accumulated all this property.” Willie Mae replies, “Property? Girl, that fool had a paper route!!!” ☺

I’m In!!!

During one “generation gap” quarrel with his parents, young Willie cried, “I want excitement, adventure, money, and beautiful women. I’ll never find it here at home, so I’m leaving. Don’t try to stop me!” With that, he headed toward the door. Leroy, his father, rose and followed close behind. Willie turned around and said, “Didn’t you hear what I said? I don’t want you to try to stop me.” Stop You! “Who in the hell is trying to stop you?” replied Leroy. “If you wait a minute, I’ll go with you!!!” ☺

Ready For Purchase!!!

Little Leroy attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse’s legs and rump, and chest. After a few minutes, Little Leroy asked, “Dad, why are you doing that?” His father replied, “Because when I am buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy.” Little Leroy, looking worried, said, “Dad, I think the UPS guy wants to buy Mom!!!” ☺

Mobile Theatre Guild
presents



THE
GOLOORED
MUSEUM

BY GEORGE
C. WOLFE

Directed by Theola Bright
February 19th - March 6th

www.mobiletheatreguild.org