



STEPPIN' OUT

THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & EMPOWERMENT GUIDE OF THE GULF COAST

MARCH 2015 • Volume 14:Issue 08

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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
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REFLECTIONS

The Road of Life

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong; so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was there sort of like a picture of a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him.

Later on when I met Christ, it seemed as though life was like a bike ride, on a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me pedal. I don't recall when he suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since.

When I had control, it was rather boring, and predictable . . . It was the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew the exciting paths to take, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds -- it was all I could do to just hang on! At times it seemed like madness. He said: "Pedal!"

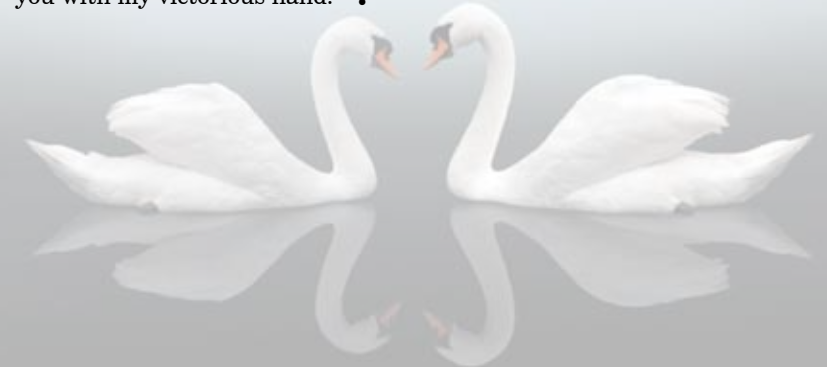
And by faith I did, although I worried and was anxious. "Where are you taking me?" He laughed, but no answer, and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure.

When I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand. He took me to people that had gifts that I needed. Gifts of healing, acceptance, love, and joy. So many priceless gifts to take on my journey -my Lord's and mine. Then we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away - they're extra baggage now - there'll be more gifts to come." So I did, I gave them to people we met, and found that in giving I also received, and my burden was lighter.

I didn't trust him at first to be in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it --but I discovered he knows how to handle even the roughest roads in my life. Now I'm learning to be quiet and pedal in the strangest places. I'm beginning to enjoy the view, the challenge of the ride, as well as the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion - Jesus Christ.

When it seems I just can't take anymore, I keep my eyes and faith on Him. He looks at me, with a big smile, and says: ". . . Keep on Pedaling."

Isaiah 41:10 "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am Your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious hand." ♣



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Mike Epps to Appear at the Civic Center

Sold Out Shows • Nationwide Tours • Big Screen

The thrill of a hip hop audience eager to watch Mike Epps own the stage has him ready to bring his new tour to Mobile Civic Center on Saturday, March 07 at 8pm. The Real Deal Tour will also feature special guests Sommore, Bruce Bruce and Gary Owen.

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.com, Ticketmaster outlets, by calling 800-745-3000 or at the Arena Box Office.

Mike Epps has been generating an extraordinary amount of buzz among his peers for being not only one of the funniest comic actors in town, but also for burgeoning dramatic talent. Mike is currently starring in the Starz series "Survivor's Remorse" produced LeBron James and Mike O'Malley. He recently completed an arch on the BET show "Being Mary Jane" and the Universal feature "Term Life" starring opposite Vince Vaughan and Hallie Steinfield. This summer he began production for the HBO bio-pic "Bessie" based on Bessie Smith, played by Queen Latifah.

In 2009, Mike headlined his hugely successful stand-up special, "Mike Epps: Underrated and Never Faded," and in 2011 introduced the world to new comedic talent with, "Mike Epps Presents..." both which aired on Showtime. He also released his first comedy rap album called "Funny Bidness: Da Album." The album featured Snoop Dogg, Kid Rock, and Slim Thug to name a few. That year also marked the release of his comedy DVD "Funny Bidness." With his undying love for hip-hop, Mike hosted the BET Hip-Hop Awards from 2009-2012. Other features include the Hangover franchise, "Faster," "Hancock," "Lottery Ticket," "Next Day Air," "Roll Bounce," "The Fighting Temptations", the Resident Evil franchise, "Bait", "How High," "Dr.Dolittle 2", "Talk to Me", and "Guess Who?"

Sommore reigns as the undisputed "Queen of Comedy." This trendsetting, highly-acclaimed veteran entertainer is widely considered one of America's top comedic female entertainers. With a winning combination of class and sass, Sommore offers audiences a hilarious, yet piercing look at today's issues from a woman's perspective. She is frank and fearless in her routines, tackling topics that range from the mundane to the controversial with wit, intelligence and style. Praised by critics, respected by her peers, and adored by a diverse fan base, she performs her stand-up act to sold-out audiences across the country, and she is among the top-grossing stand-up comediennees in the United States and abroad. With several successful years of the highly acclaimed Royal Comedy Tour under her belt, she is unstoppable. She can also be seen as the new host of BET's ComicView.

Known for hosting BET's ComicView, Bruce Bruce has starred in various stand-up comedy specials and television series including most recent stand-up comedy special "Bruce Bruce: Loosin' It". He has also appeared in the movies "xXx: State of the Union", "Idlewild", and "Think Like a Man".

Gary Owen is an American actor and stand-up comedian known for his appearances in "Think Like a Man" and "Think Like a Man Too", "Ride Along" and BET's "ComicView". Owen has also appeared in "Daddy Day Care", "Little Man", and "College". He has cultivated an African-American following after headlining on cable channel BET and his most recent stand-up comedy special "True Story". ♣



A promotional poster for Mike Epps' "Real Deal Tour". The background is dark with gold light streaks and confetti. At the top, it says "SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2015" in gold. In the center, Mike Epps is the main focus, wearing a grey zip-up jacket and glasses, pointing towards the camera. Behind him are three other people: a woman in a blue dress, a man in a white shirt, and a man in a suit. The text "REAL DEAL Tour" is written in gold and red above "MIKE EPPS" in large, blue, stylized letters. Below that, it says "ALONGSIDE BRUCE BRUCE-SOMMORE GARY OWEN" in blue. At the bottom right is the logo for the Mobile Civic Center, which features a stylized building and the text "MOBILE CIVIC CENTER". At the very bottom, it says "Tickets available at the Box Office, all Ticketmaster locations ticketmaster.com or charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000".

The Art of Fashion: The Sequel



SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2015

**Battle House Renaissance Hotel
Crystal Ballroom
26 North Royal Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602**

COCKTAILS

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

RUNWAY SHOW

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

**TICKETS START
@\$30**

VIP TICKETS—Advanced Purchase— \$50

TICKET PURCHASE/ADDITIONAL DETAILS

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Sponsorship details are also available by visiting
www.hartzogconsulting.com/events/theartoffashion

PRESS AND MEDIA INQUIRIES

Contact Carlisha Hartzog of Hartzog Consulting
carlisha@hartzogconsulting.com • (251) 214-0305

When Fashion & Art Collide

In less than a month, designers, models, and fashion enthusiasts will convene for one of the Gulf Coast's most eclectically presented fashion shows. The Crystal Ballroom of the historic Battle House Hotel of Mobile will seat an exclusive set of attendees and will host the high steps of runway models draped in styles perfect for spring and summer. "With the success of the Art of Fashion in 2012, we knew that it was time to visit the idea again," says Julie Causey, CEO of JujuBeez Models and Talent. "We fell in love with the Crystal Ballroom because of the exclusivity and the integrated beauty. It's perfect for the setting that we wanted."

Like the inaugural event, attendees can expect to see a host of art forms integrated into the show, from ballerinas to stringed instruments and vocalists. An iPad-clad Carlisha Hartzog will provide commentary about the featured designers and engage with the audience from her post on the runway. "This was one of the first shows that I hosted in Mobile and I respected the way that Julie and Darnell crafted the event and represented the brand," says Hartzog. "It was executed with great detail, and brand representation is key to me. Besides, anyone who knows me knows talking to other fashion enthusiasts while robed in great garments is right up my alley!"

Ticket sales and sponsorship funds will be used as a propeller to fund Legacy 166, which uses the arts to develop, educate and mentor youth. One of Legacy 166's programs offers weekly music programs to children that would otherwise not likely be exposed. For \$24, one child can participate in a music or art program for the entire school year, a small price tag for the evolution of child mentorship.

So meet the presenters. They're diverse. Cultured. Eclectic. Visionaries. Along with the featured brands and designers highlighted below, the event will also showcase custom designers Gizuri Mckinnis of Mobile, and Maria Allen (Made by Maria), of Atlanta. With a variety of experiences and geographic locations, the designers and brands being featured in the Art of Fashion have something worthwhile to lay eyes on. ♣



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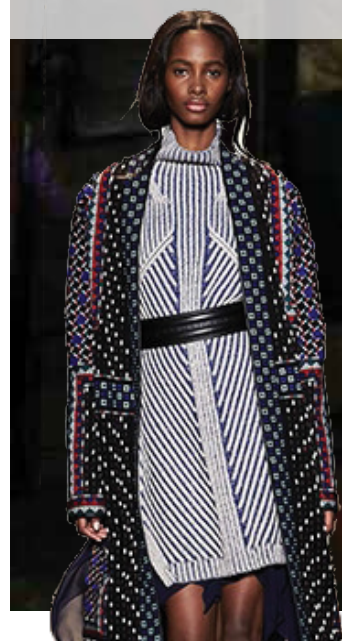
www.urbaneboutique.com

Known for timeless design and divine structure, French-based fashion firm BCBG Maz Azria quickly evolved into a household name. Founded by power couple Max and Lubov Azria, BCBG Maz Azria offers the entire spectrum of pieces to create the perfect wardrobe for any woman. Today, BCBG Max Azria Group has more than 570 BCBG Max Azria retail boutiques worldwide, each serving as a consummate showcase for women's ready-to-wear and accessory collections. There are currently over 175 BCBG Maz Azria boutiques in the United States and worldwide, with a presence throughout Europe, Canada, Venezuela, Chile, Portugal, Greece, Bahrain, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong and Russia and other countries. Best of all: the Gulf Coast has access to these coveted pieces right here in Mobile at the in-store boutique at Dillard's of Bel-Air Mall. ♣

Sacred Heart Collections is a fun, flirty line of dresses, jumpers and capes that uses imaginative, color-saturated chiffons and relies on embellishments such as candy colored ribbon trims, delicate lace and pleated ruffles. It embodies the same belief as the late Coco Chanel, "A girl should be two things: classy and fabulous." Sacred Heart Collections' delicious designs have been featured in Vogue and People Magazine, and the brand's designer, Brandi Russell, has been invited to the White House to talk fashion and has put her garments on a range of celebrities, from Miss Universe to Lauren London. ♣

UN-U has risen to a Gulf Coast-based company that has national clientele, all in adoration for the design aesthetics and brand recognition the company has created. UN-U is a company that creates garments for the opulent in dreams, wisdom, creativity, and love. The brand's most recognized image, the Distinguished Royalty Lion, is a symbol of every individual being king (or queen, of course) of their own world and destiny. With an online presence and e-commerce site that is accessible worldwide, the company has successfully created a loyal following by making a conscious decision to be different, striving to maximize creativity in apparel. ♣

URBANE is an e-boutique that focuses on accessories for the progressive woman or man, and is an e-commerce extension of Urbane Fashion. Offering limited-quantity collections, the firm specifically works with designers in the US and abroad to offer a lifestyle experience that offers a diverse and eclectic mix. Urbane's goal is to offer hand-selected pieces that represent a variety of options: timeless classics, trendy wardrobe updates and investment pieces that their clients won't regret. The current collection, The Lifestyle Collection, recently launched globally-influenced accessories, boasting pieces designed in Paris, Greece, Hong Kong and the U.S. ♣



LOCAL FLAVA

Arts

PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK will present "The Miracle Worker", February 27- March 08 on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm. Recommended for grades 4 – adult. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and senior citizens. School show performances are Thursdays & Fridays, February 26, 27, March 05 & 06 at 9:00 am, 10:30 am, or Noon. Please contact Pamela Mollise at 251-422-0079 to book seats for your class! All performances will be at the Playhouse in the Park. Call 602-0630 for details or visit <http://www.playhouseinthepark.org/www.playhouseinthepark.org>.

Mobile Library News

CHESS CLUB

Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 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.

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 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, March 4, 11, 18 & 25, 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, March 5, 19 & 26, 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.

TUESDAY MOVIE ADVENTURE

Tuesdays, March 3, 17, 24 & 31, 3 p.m., Parkway Branch, 1924-B Dauphin Island Pkwy. Fun Films. For a complete list of titles or more information, please call 470-7766.

EXTRAVAGANT READERS BOOK CLUB

Saturday, March 7, 3 p.m., Toulminville Branch, 601 Stanton Rd. Topics of discussion are The Bees by Laline Paull and Who Moved My Cheese by Spencer Johnson. For more information, please call 438-7075.

FAMILY FEATURE FILM

Monday, March 9, 5:30 p.m., Toulminville Branch, 601 Stanton Rd. Think Like A Man Too: When the couples head to Las Vegas for a big wedding, everyone involved gets swept up in the glam and glitter of the indulgent desert oasis. The film runs 106 minutes and is PG-13. For more information, please call 438-7075.

COZY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 10, 6 p.m., Moorers/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Ave. Calling all mystery lovers! This month's topic of discussion is Immunity by Lori Andrews. For more information, please call Kay at 470-7770.

A PAGE IN TIME

Tuesday, March 10, 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 Moloka'i by Alan Brennert. For more information, please call Michele at 340-8561.

Libretto Book Club

Tuesday, March 10, 10 a.m., Moorers/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Ave. Mobile Opera's Scott Wright and Stacey Driskell will host a discussion of the book, Manon Lescaut by Abbè Prévost. This short novel was the influence for Giacomo Puccini's Opera, Manon Lescaut. Join the Libretto chat over coffee for a lively and informative discussion. For more information, call Mobile Opera at 251-432-6772 or visit www.mobileopera.org.

BINGO FOR BOOKS

Tuesday, March 10, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Ages 6 and Up. Parkway Branch, 1924-B Dauphin Island Parkway. Fun for all! Winners get to choose prizes from our table of gently used books. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, please call 470-7766.

LOOKING FOR GRANTS

Wednesday, March 11, 2 - 4 p.m., West Regional Branch, 5555 Grelot Road. Through the Funding Information Network: Michael Reimer, Grant Collection Supervisor, will show the class how to search internet sites that list grants. Registration is required due to the limited number of computer workstations. For additional information or to register, please call the Reference Department at 340-8561 or e-mail westref@mplonline.org.

THROWBACK MOVIES

Wednesdays, March 11 & 25, 3:30 p.m., West Regional Branch, 5555 Grelot Road. Calling All Teens: Step back in time with some of your favorite movies! For a list of titles or more information, please call the Children's Department at 340-8571.

FAMILY FEATURE FILM

Thursday, March 12, 4 p.m., Semmes Branch, 9150 Moffett Road. Dolphin Tale 2: A group of sympathetic humans help a dolphin with a damaged tail in this heart-warming sequel to the surprise 2011 hit. The film runs 107 minutes and is rated PG. For more information, call 645-6840.

EBONY MOMENTS BOOK CLUB

Thursday, March 12, 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 Forever an Ex by Victoria Christopher Murray. For more information, contact Betty Kidd at 470-7766.

POETRY ENTHUSIASTS

Monday, March 16, 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, March 17, 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 Other Typist by Suzanne Rindell. For more information, please call 208-7097.

BAYSIDE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, March 19, 6 p.m., Parkway Branch, 1924-B Dauphin Island Parkway. This month's topic of discussion is High Lonesome by Louis L'Amour. For more information, please call Betty Fowler at 476-2600 or 208-7097.

MATINEE @ THE MAIN

Thursday, March 19, 1 p.m., Bernheim Hall at the Ben May Main Library, 701 Government Street. The Hundred Foot Journey: An Indian teen in France goes
(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.

EBONY MOMENTS BOOK CLUB REVIEW

The Choir Director 2: Runaway Bride

by Carl Weber

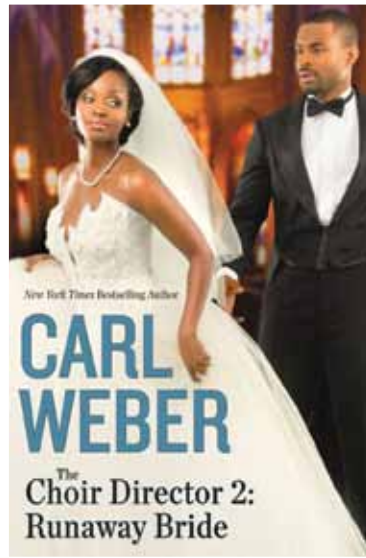
"The Choir Director 2: Runaway Bride" by Carl Weber is an excellent book. It is written in true Carl Weber fashion but with a suspenseful dangerous twist. Picking up directly where "The Choir Director" left off, we are introduced to several new characters very early on: Desiree, Lynn, and the flashy talent agent Jackson Young. They will all play a major role in this twisted story about love, jealousy, and revenge. You will also meet Aaron's best friend Ross and long-time friend Pippie.

The story begins with the beloved choir director at his bachelor party planned by his best friends Ross and Pippie. It is here we meet Desiree and begin to see her intentions for Aaron. The following day, Aaron is left at the altar by the love of his life... Tia. Why? As this mystery unfolds we will begin to see everyone's true colors. No one is who they seem to be at least not anymore. Monique begins to revert back to her ways prior to becoming first lady, keeping secrets and all! Bishop Wilson seems to allow his insecurities and rage to lead him back to a place where he may have been prior to becoming pastor of First Jamaica Ministries. You will get a glimpse of exactly what the "good reverend" is capable of. Tia and Aaron will both experience haunting from their pasts that will intertwine in the most unexpected ways.

There isn't much more to say about this book without spoiling it completely but it is an absolute must read. I could not bear to put it down and cannot wait to see what comes next!

NEXT UP: *Forever an Ex*

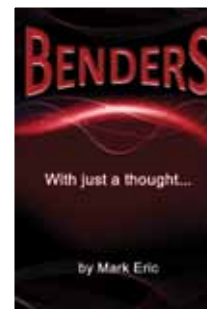
by Victoria Christopher Murray



REVIEWED BY
Jessica Knight

Benders

by Mark Eric



"Benders" by Mark Eric is a science fiction thriller that is something apart from the usual, as "Benders" incorporates both supernatural powers and romance. A bender that the book is titled for can bend the thoughts of others to do what the bender wants them to do. The subject of the bender is unaware that their thoughts are being manipulated by others.

The hero of our story, Monty, is a laid back young black man who has tried to keep his ability as a bender a secret his entire life. This has caused him to distance himself from others. Monty is not aware that a man is looking for people with his unique talents, but only because he wants to hunt down the benders and publicly executes them. That man is Hazelton, who is obsessed with the idea that by disclosing the benders, he himself can become a man with great power and stature all over the world.

Both Mieke, who is Monty's interracial girlfriend, and his oldest friend team up to try and save Monty from the insane and power mad Hazelton.

(continued on Page 15... see **BENDERS**)

"WHAT I'M READING NOW"

The Men in 3B

by Carl Weber



The Man in 3B is an excellently written story that has all the elements of a modern day Bonnie and Clyde movie. The story is full of love, romance and the excitement of getting away with robbery and murder.

Darryl, the protagonist, is a new comer who all the right attributes a young man needs to get all the women, young and old, to come to his aid. He is handsome, knows a lot of people, is well-read and can fight. 3B is located in an apartment building called The Jamaica Queens Apartments. When Darryl moves in 3B, he becomes neighbors to Connie and her husband Avery. Ben, a fireman also lives on the third floor along with his twenty-one year old son, Benny. Later Krystal moves in the building with her fiancée Slim. Krystal is Darryl's first love and Avery's daughter. Krystal is also a friend of Benny, who is coming to grips with his sexuality, and has fallen in love with Darryl. Things get heated because Darryl starts a rela-

(continued on Page 15... see **3B**)

REVIEWED BY
Betty Kidd



REVIEWED BY
Griselda McFadden White



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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 reach Tanene via Facebook... Locs of Soul and/or email... curiosity4_u@yahoo.com.



Tanene Jackson
LOCS OF SOUL

Gratitude

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

I want to thank Greg Cyprian and Steppin Out Magazine for allowing me the opportunity to present, educate, and inform so many people about hair; and more specifically, natural hair.

I want to thank you, the reader for reading, requesting, talking about my articles, and saving or book marking my articles! The feedback has been great! I am very passionate about what I do and how I do it. I have met many challenges along the way, but I still try my best to deliver.

Locs of Soul is going through a mini "facelift" at present. That includes the information that I will be bringing to you monthly. I have been in school for the past year, graduating in May. When I finish I will be a certified trichologist (a person who studies the biological study of hair, skin, and scalp disorders and hair loss). It's like being a dermatologist without the medications and chemicals.

I have been implementing new techniques, add-on services, classes/workshops, articles, and more! I am excited and I hope you will be too! So, please do not think I have forgotten you. I am thankful, appreciative, and grateful to you all. Without you, there is no me. No Locs of Soul. ♣

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Pensacola, FL 32501

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FOODIE FINDS!

Salutations Fellow Foodies!!

This month's issue of Foodie Finds has to start off on a more serious note. Foodie & Friend spend a good deal of time each month seeking out noteworthy eateries to introduce you too; we always hope that your culinary experience will be as spectacular as ours. Well...Foodie & Friend recently revisited one particular FOODIE FIND and were unpleasantly surprised; it just wasn't up to Foodie Finds standards this go round. Granted, everyone is entitled to a bad day, but standards and consistency "must" be maintained. But... we forgive them and will give them another chance; and that is what you have to promise us: that if you visit a recommended restaurant and it is not as great as we said it was, that you will give it another go at some point (also, please let us know about your experience).

On a lighter note...One restaurant that is almost always guaranteed to please is McGuire's Irish Pub of Destin, 33 E. Hwy. 98, Destin, FL 32541, (850) 650-0000. Foodie flew solo and just had to check them out. I was very impressed with the service within this rustic cabin (although the size of this place was much bigger than any cabin that Foodie has seen). Once seated, the service of the wait staff rivaled that of most 5-Star restaurants that I have visited. Because McGuire's is known as "one of America's great Steakhouses", there was no question as to what would be selected from their vast menu. The 16 oz. HICKORY SMOKED PRIME RIB OF BEEF! Heavily fat marbled and Slow-smoked over Hickory Wood Fires, this steak had a very strong smoked flavor and was tender and delicious! I also sampled their "Certified Prime" Ribeye Steak, which they cut daily on premises. This Steak had so much flavor that the accompanying Au Jus was barely needed. The sides were tasty and ample, but as you can imagine, it was all about the beef. McGuire's also has a location in Pensacola, so as soon as you can...ROADTRIP!!!

McGuire's Irish Pub - Destin...YOU'VE BEEN FOUND!!!

Don't forget to hit us up and tell us what you're eating!! Reach us at foodieandfriend@aol.com.

Until next time!

Foodie & Friend ❖



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.

Mobile Theater Guild will finish their run of Rumors, March 1. 6-8, and 13-15. In this Neil Simon murderous farce, we find four couples arriving for the 10th anniversary celebration party for New York's deputy mayor and his wife, only to find the mayor wounded and the wife missing. For more information, go to their website, www.mobiletheaterguild.org.

Chickasaw Community Theater brings us Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Running March 1, and 6, 7, and 8, this comedy focuses on a girl pretending to be a boy, falling in love with someone who isn't who they pretend to be, and bad behavior. For more information, including tickets, go to www.cctshows.com.

At the Crescent, beginning March 6, we get to visit India and the Exotic Marigold Hotel for the Elderly and Beautiful. Once again, we get to see Sonny, the owner of the hotel, try to "fix things" only to find himself up to his ears in drama and expansion with a second Exotic Marigold. The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel brings back the old cast and adds Richard Gere and Tamsin Greig. For more information on these and the Crescent, go to www.crescenttheater.com.

March 14 and 15, Mobile Ballet brings us Winston Corey's adaptation of Cinderella, complete with ugly step-sisters, controlling step-mothers, pretty fairies, and beautiful slippers. Featuring dancers, Raul Peinado, Lauren Woods, Noel Hanley, and members of the Mobile Ballet Company, it should delight any who attend. For more information, including tickets, go to www.mobileballet.org.

March is jumping at the Saenger. The 6th has Robert Earl Keen; the 13th gives us Elvis Costello; the 14th go watch The Sing Off Live; and the 21st the Mobile Symphony Orchestra is home with From Tragedy to Triumph. For more info on each of these, go to www.mobilesaenger.com.

Mobile Opera presents Manon Lescaut, a work based loosely on the short French novel by Abbé Prévost, which was controversial in its time and banned at publication. Set in France and Louisiana in the early 18th century, it tells the story of a young woman who gets involved with a rich young man, but drops him after he can no longer afford to keep her in the lifestyle she's become accustomed to. It will be presented March 27 & 29 in the Civic Theater, which is part of the Civic Center complex. For more information, including tickets, go to www.mobileopera.org.

Finishing out the month, JJP begins its run of Elton John's version of the opera, Aida, beginning March 27. 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. ❖

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 audition dates are Saturday, May 2, 10am-1pm and Sunday, May 3, 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. Resume should be forwarded to legacycenter166@aol.com.

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ABOUT PRESCHOOL SITES

We offer twenty five schools where a parent can seek enrollment for their four year old. Preschool units consists of twenty children, a teacher, and an assistant. Approximately 980 children are served in these units.

Classes allow young children direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, ideas, and events. Children's intellectual, social, emotional and physical development occurs naturally when they are engaged in active learning opportunities of exploration and discovery. Adults facilitate child-initiated activities that promote investigation, decision-making, cooperation, persistence, and problem solving. The Mobile County Public School System will hold Preschool pre-registration on Friday, April 17, 2015. Students pre-registering for preschool must be four-years old on or before September 01, 2015.

All students pre-registering should have an original birth certificate. Parents/guardians must have a photo ID to pre-register their child and two proofs of residence. Students pre-registering for preschool may pre-register at only one preschool site. They must reside in a Title I attendance zone in order to pre-register for preschool. Students pre-registering for preschool must be in attendance at pre-registration for an on-site pre-test.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Paula Reese, School-Home-Community Programs Manger, Mobile County Public School System at 221-5218 or email preese1@mcps.com. Additional information is also available at mcps.com, "For Parents".



PRESCHOOL SITES: Booth, Brazier, Burroughs, Calcedaever, Collins-Rhodes, Council, Craighead, Dixon, Eichold-Mertz, Fonde, Hall, Hollingers Island, Indian Springs, John Will, Just 4 (April 16-17), Leinkauf, Maryvale, McDavid-Jones, Meadowlake, Nan Gray, Orchard, O'Rourke, Robbins, Spencer-Westlawn, Taylor-White, Whitley, Wilmer.

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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.

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY...

MARCIE MCNEAL

Assistant Communications Supervisor
Office of Communications
MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



JAMS PLUS MEDIA

February 06

Umpfrey's McGee Ryman Auditorium (Nashville)

Written by Holly Strutzenberg
Photos by Roger Patteson

With a venue as historic as The Ryman Auditorium in Nashville TN, Chicago based Umpfrey's McGee took the sold out stage with something to prove. With 2,000+ live shows, this progressive rock jam band has never taken their foot off the pedal, always pushing themselves to new and greater limits. With this much history, it is hard not to feel a strong sense of nostalgia just walking through the doors. The house lights went down and Jefferson Wafu's always breathtaking stage lights came up and the band launched into a dark and mysterious intro with "Catshot". Umpfrey's tipped their version of a cowboy hat to the Ryman with original hillbilly foot stomper, "Mullet (Over)", after which Brendan Bayliss (lead vocals, guitar) thanked the crowd "for allowing us to play this room". Ryan Stasik lays down a funky number on the bass for "Puppet String" and the crowd knows it's time to get down to business. Fans were treated with a couple rarities smack in the middle of the first set with "Alex's House" and "Snake Juice". As the band plays the first chords of "I Want You (She's So Heavy)" and stops, the anticipation grows and Bayliss looks to the crowd for approval. With bellowing yells from the gut of the Ryman, the band launches into this classic Beatles cover and doesn't hold back. Jake Cinninger plays this tune with visible passion running through his body as he dances with his guitar. The band keeps the high energy going with a heavy "Eat". Slowing down a bit, Bayliss straps into his acoustic guitar with a rare "Rocker" and for the first time ever UM segues straight into fully electric "Rocker Pt. 2" with a solid disco jam to finish the first set.

Coming out in the second set with a strong "Believe The Lie", with many time stops, drummer Kris Myers never misses a beat and this powerful jam set the tone for the set. Brendan recalls walking past the Ryman on his way to a much smaller venue, "12th and Porter", for Umpfrey's first gig in Nashville and expresses his gratitude for the return to Nashville's most sacred home for live music. The high energy dance party continues with "Booth Love" and "Nothing too Fancy". Jake took the mic as the always crowd pleasing sing along "Women Wine and Song" and switched the pace a bit with this country-rock themed song. Adding to the list of rarities, this night presented keyboardist Joel Cummings taking the spotlight with "Den" and the dance party resumed. The band throws themselves into a flawless cover of Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir" as Brendan sings most of the vocals and Kris screams the peaks with an undistinguishable imitation to Robert Plant as he wails on his set simultaneously. The band's strong jazz influences shine through on original, "Intentions Clear", with a nod to Wayne Shorter's "Footprints" and then dives directly into jazz jam. Jake Cinninger lets a little bit of his classical influence shine through with a taste of the traditional "Simple Gifts" in the intro of the powerful original "Glory". UM finishes this set with an always impressive finish to "Nothing Too Fancy" and got heads banging with strong "Stranglehold" teases. As the band left the stage, the crowd was stomping their feet and roaring for the encore. They would not leave disappointed as the band came back with an "All In Time" plus a "Jimmy Stewart" with lyrics including a Kris Myers drum solo closing out the high energy show.

(continued on Page 16, see MCGEE)

Type II Photography © Roger Patteson

REVIEWS • REVIEWS

JAMS PLUS MEDIA

February 19

Flaming Lips/Spaceface
Soul Kitchen (Mobile)

A psychedelic other-worldly vibe permeated the Lower Dauphin downtown area of Mobile, AL on Thursday night, just two days after the conclusion of the weeks-long celebration here in the birthplace of Mardi Gras. The Soul Kitchen Music Hall would try to contain the high energy and massive presence of the Flaming Lips as they made their first appearance in the Port City; and based on social media photos of the load-in, it was clear the band brought all their toys for the Mobile show. The evening began with Memphis-based psychedelic rockers Spaceface, a band that brought plenty of energy and a bright exciting light show to the stage. They put forth a full set of great music that was ethereal and dreamy, while still hard rocking. The percussion held solid ground and allowed for fluid exploration amongst the guitars and keys; the intensity of sound and light was perfect to prime the crowd, and the audience seemed to really dig the Spaceface set.

The audience roared in welcome as the Flaming Lips emerged onstage, opening their set with a melodic and intense song that hadn't been played live since 1996, "Placebo Headwound". A colorful fringed curtain of lights dangled in front of the band, while a second light curtain was strung at the back of the stage in front of a large collection of corralled silver Mylar balloons. Throughout the night, the visually stunning and surprising elements would compliment and contradict the musical journey. During the dark and twisted "The Terror", at the apex of the song a giant burst of rainbow confetti rained down upon the outstretched hands of the crowd.

After a crazed "Psychiatric Explorations of the Fetus with Needles", Wayne Coyne brought out a giant inflated sign that said "F**k Yeah, Mobile!" and passed it out into the crowd (I wonder where it went??). In one of the biggest audience participation moments, "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots (Part I)" had some good karate-chop action, as well as singing along. Following Yoshimi with "In the Morning of the Magicians" was a lovely throwback to the band's 2002 album, and was well received.

The evening would include a pleasant variety of feeling and pace, with the Lips keeping things interesting all the way through. "Feeling Yourself Disintegrate" featured Steven Drozd's gorgeous guitar inducing a dream-like trance, and "Vein of Stars" brought a bittersweet yearning towards joy. Meanwhile "The W.A.N.D." rocked hard, and "What Is The Light?" brought high energy delight. There was a giant smiling sunshine onstage,

(continued on Page 16, see **FLAMING LIPS**)

JAMS PLUS MEDIA
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REVIEWS • REVIEWS

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CAR ACCIDENT INSURANCE CLAIM FAQs

- 1. Can I settle my property damage claim even though I am still receiving medical care for my injuries?** Yes. Alabama Insurance Regulations require insurance companies to treat property damage and bodily injury claims as separate claims. So a property damage claim can be settled or resolved even if care and treatment for your injuries is still ongoing. To better understand your rights related to property damage claims under Alabama law, Boteler, Finley & Wolfe has a publication on this subject that can be downloaded for free from the Publications page of our web site: www.bfw-lawyers.com
- 2. I am still hurting and under care of a doctor but the insurance company is trying to get me to settle.** Under Alabama law, once you accept money for your injury claim and sign a release you are generally prohibited from coming back and seeking additional compensation. We advise all of our clients who have been injured not to settle until they have received the full benefit of medical care.
- 3. How long do I have to settle my claims from a car accident?** The Statute of Limitations for auto-negligence claims in Alabama is two years. However, there are some qualifying conditions if the injuries were caused by a municipality or county employee.
- 4. If I am hurt in a car accident what am I entitled to recover from the at-fault driver's insurance company?** The basic damages authorized by Alabama law for an injury claim include past and future medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering and emotional distress (worry and anxiety related to an injury). Other damages may be recoverable depending on the facts surrounding the accident.
- 5. How can I learn more about my rights related to a car accident insurance claim?** At Boteler, Finley & Wolfe we encourage all car accident victims to take advantage of our free consultations. Not every car accident insurance claim requires the hiring of a lawyer, but all insurance claimants should at least know their basic rights. The sooner we meet with a car accident victim the sooner we can help them understand their rights and the insurance claim process. We can also provide them with an honest assessment as to if and when they may need to think about hiring an attorney. Call us today at 251-433-7766 for your free consultation. Also, our award winning publication: **Motor Vehicle Collisions: A Claimant's Handbook - Ala ed.** can be downloaded at no charge from the Publications page of our web site. This comprehensive guide includes chapters on insurance coverage, property and injury damages and it even has a chapter on hiring an attorney. www.bfw-lawyers.com.

To the extent this article may be considered an attorney advertisement, Alabama law requires the following disclaimer: No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the services of other attorneys. ❖

Karlos Finley is a partner in the law firm of Boteler, Finley & Wolfe. The firm has been helping insurance claimants present and prosecute insurance claims since 1987 and has recovered millions of dollars for thousands of injury victims. You can contact him at 251-433-7766 or karlos@bfw-lawyers.com.

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

An Urban Village in the Heart of Downtown

Imagine a thriving district in the heart of downtown with residential, retail and cultural venues connected to the city's bustling waterfront and its historic and business areas. This signature development would be a focal point for Mobile and the metro area. This is what I envision based on a combination of my ideas and ideas presented by others on local discussion forums that I frequent.

The location would be on the large swath of prime real estate where the Mobile Civic Center presently stands. It appears that the Civic Center, originally known as "the auditorium," has long passed its economic viability as times and needs have changed. The mayor has already given notice to the few organizations that still use it to find other venues to host their functions.

My vision calls for the entire facility to be torn down and replaced with a state-of-the-art performing arts center that serves as the centerpiece of the development. The complex, which I have dubbed "an urban village," would include high-rise condos offering spectacular views of the waterfront and the city skyline. It would have mid-rise condos and apartments, space for restaurants, hotels, retail, movie theaters, a grocery store and other amenities that help make the area a vibrant urban setting and desirable place to live.

The urban village would connect East Church Street, Fort Conde, the downtown business district and the waterfront all into one walkable area that would give people of all ages the opportunity to enjoy the museums, the river and the historic areas of the city. They can live, work and play in an area that puts them in the center of the action.

Since the property already has easy access to I-10, it would be very visible to the thousands of vehicles passing through Mobile each day. Once I-10 is reconfigured to accommodate the new river bridge, additional land would become available for the urban village and subsequent development.

It's time to create something bold for downtown that we haven't seen before. This is a vision I hope that Mayor Stimpson will consider in his plans for the Civic Center property. It will take dynamic leadership to bring the public and private entities together and now is the time to make it happen. From the ruins of the auditorium, let rise, the urban village!

Copyright, Memphis Vaughan, Jr. February 2015 ♣

Lion's Club 5K Charity Run

The Lion's Club of Mobile is hosting a 5K charity race through Bankhead Tunnel on May 2, 2015. The race will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Mobile Government Plaza. It will proceed through Bankhead Tunnel and end at Ralph & Kacoo's for the post-race party. The Lion's Club and its charity foundations help the blind and visually impaired. The Lion's sight programs include but are not limited to the University of South Alabama Eye Research Institute, Alabama Lion's Sight Foundation, Camp Seale Harris, eye exams, eye glasses, etc.

For more information, visit www.lionsclubofmobile.org and see "Club Projects." You may also register for the Lion's Club of Mobile Tunnel Vision 5K at www.tunnelvisionrun.org. ♣



Ludgood Tapped for National Position Organization Represents More Than 3,000 County Governments Nationwide



Merceria Ludgood
MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood has been elected to the governing committee of the National Association of Counties (NACo), an organization charged with representing the more than 3,000 county governments nationwide.

Ludgood was elected at NACo's Annual Legislative Conference today in Washington D.C. She joins four elected officers and three regional representatives on the executive governing council that supervises NACo's daily activities.

"I'm extremely honored to represent the southeastern states on the executive committee of NACo," Ludgood said following her election. "This organization is the voice of county government in Washington, and serves to ensure counties can continue providing vital services in every corner of our nation. I will work hard to keep the issues that are important to southeastern states at the forefront of NACo's work agenda."

Commissioner Ludgood is the current President of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, which represents all of Alabama's 67 counties. She holds B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University of Alabama and a law degree from Antioch School of Law in Washington D.C. Before serving as a commissioner, Ludgood held state and national leadership positions with Legal Services Corporation, and was also an assistant county attorney for 14 years.

NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, the Association strives to help counties pursue excellence in public service to produce healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties. ♣

BENDERS (continued from Page 07)

To find out if they have what it takes to save Monty and stop Hazelton, read "Benders" for yourself.

Mark Eric is a new novelist from whom I am sure we will be hearing much more. His black super-hero, Monty, has taken science fiction to a different level. ♣

3B (continued from Page 07)

tionship with Connie, who has a weight problem and Darryl becomes her exercise coach. They fall in love while she is getting a divorce from her husband who has no interest in her until she starts to lose weight. Avery began to commit armed robberies.

The plot thickens as the story progresses and each person finds out more information about the other.

A fire in 3B leaves someone dead. You would assume it is Darryl. The police are stumped because they have several suspects with motives, but the pieces are not fitting together.

Carl Weber has written the perfect crime story, and two of the characters literally get away with murder. He has the ability to create interest and drama by interweaving the lives of people, dropping small details along the way to keep you guessing until the end. ♣

NEXT UP: Kenkay Hair I Am by Kandra Ferguson ♣

THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX



Arthur L. Mack
FREELANCE WRITER
Mobile, Alabama

Contact Info: steppinoutnews@aol.com

Brainwashing at its Finest

If you check out Facebook (like I do) you'll see the darnest things.

But one dreary Monday morning, I saw something on Facebook that really had me really shaking my head.

It was a You Tube video by a 12-year-old kid named C.J. Pearson, who is from Georgia. He created a major buzz by defending former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani's remarks about President Obama.

To give you some background, Giuliani said in a speech that Obama hates America, and took the President to task for not loving America. He made the remarks last month at a Manhattan dinner party.

"I do not believe—and I know this is a horrible thing to say—but I do not believe this President loves America," Giuliani said. "He doesn't love you. He doesn't love me. He wasn't brought up the way you were brought up and I was brought up...to love this country. And with all our faults, we're the most exceptional country in the world."

Of course, Giuliani tried to soften the things that he said, saying that he was not questioning Obama's patriotism, but that he seemed to be more of a critic of America than a supporter.

Enter young Pearson, who just happens to be the executive director of Young Georgians in Government. Not long ago, in a You Tube speech, he defended Giuliani's comments, saying that Obama indeed didn't love America.

"If you loved America, you would call ISIS what it really is—an assault on Christianity and an assault on America," Pearson said in the You Tube speech. "If you really loved America, you wouldn't take away what hard-working Americans have worked for their entire lives."

Pearson went on to say that Obama did not love America because he did not attack terrorism—both domestic and abroad.

It's kind of funny in a way. A lot of blacks, as well as whites, love this country and have worked hard their entire lives. But personally, I don't exactly recall Obama trying to take away anything—except for perhaps the 1 percent's right to have a disproportionate amount of wealth at the expense of middle and lower class people.

And ISIS is an entirely different animal. To fight a group such as this requires a ton of smart military strategy as well as common sense. With all of the terror plots in this country being thwarted over the past few years, and strikes against terrorist strongholds throughout the Middle East, what more does young Pearson want? Long, protracted money-sapping wars as in the case of Iraq and Afghanistan? A failed military adventure such as the former Soviet Union had in Afghanistan in 1979 and the early 80s? I would certainly hope not.

C'mon kid, Obama not loving this country? That's quite a stretch.

Beyond that, what's even scarier is that the kid also has political aspirations. Pearson is in the process of trying to get the Georgia State legislature to lower the minimum age to run for a seat in the state House of Representatives. He said he was inspired to do so after learning that 18-year-old Saira Blair won a House of Representatives seat in West Virginia.

I love ambition just as anybody else. I'll give the young man his props—he's well spoken, and apparently has a pretty good head on his shoulders. What he has to understand is that while he's the darling of the right—particularly those of the Tea Party persuasion—I'm concerned about what will happen when he gets older, and people look at his skin color instead of his beliefs. He could be victimized by a rogue cop, or be used by the more sinister forces of the right to further its own selfish agenda, or even worse.

(continued on Page 20, see **BRAINWASHING**)



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MCGEE (continued from Page 12)

This band never fails to step up to the plate and continues to improve on already impressive improvisational skills and remarkable covers. You can feel the bands passion oozing to the crowd with power stances from bassist Ryan Stasik as he lays down funky bass grooves, Jake Cinninger's perfectly timed chord progressions, Kris Myers' relentless audacity on the drums and Brendan Bayliss' soul with Andy Farag complementing the madness. They produce a unique energy that is hard to achieve and will leave your face feeling sufficiently "melted".

Umpfrey's is on another impressive, nationwide winter/spring tour highlighting their devotion to bringing incredible music to a venue or festival in a town near you. Check out www.umpheys.com for all tour related info and news concerning the band's ever evolving effort at creating the best fan experience in the industry. ♣

FLAMING LIPS (continued from Page 13)

a spaceman made an appearance, glittery silver confetti was thrown around, and all the while the musicians crafted a set of whimsical beauty. Wayne Coyne even succeeded in fitting his giant inflated sphere inside the music hall, and within his bubble, he walked over the crowd's eager hands. The double encore of "Do You Realize?" and "A Spoonful Weighs a Ton" sealed the deal and stretched smiles across the room.

It truly was a full-fledged Flaming Lips concert experience; and whether the fans were wearing street clothes, or alien wigs and space capes, the music delighted them all. Many thanks to the Soul Kitchen for bringing a band of this magnitude and showmanship to downtown Mobile; and many thanks to the Flaming Lips for bringing their vibrant, effervescent, one-of-a-kind musical celebration to Mobile! ♣

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Puccini Lecture Series

On Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Moorer/Spring Hill Branch of the library, is your chance to get behind the scenes of Mobile Opera's production of Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*. Together we will explore how and why a great story came to become one of the greatest operas of all time. Discussion and comment will be led by Mobile Opera Education Director, Stacey Driskell, and General Director, Scott Wright. Learn more to enjoy more. For more information call Mobile Opera at 251-432-6772 or visit www.mobileopera.org. ❖

Stay Active: Move to the Beat

Boys & Girls Ages 6 and Up are invited to stay active and to have fun while meeting new friends and learning basic dance steps and movement by way of Wii dance games. For more information, please call 470-7766. Thursday, March 26, 3:30 – 5 p.m. at the Parkway Branch of the Mobile Public Library. ❖

Teen Tech Week – March 7-15

On Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the West Regional Branch of the library and Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Ben May Branch of the library, Members of the Mobile Makerspace will offer demonstrations of 3D Printers, Quadcopter Drones, Arduino and Raspberry Pi projects, and so much more. Door prizes include Raspberry Pi's, Arduinos and Makey Makeys. Teen Tech Week is offered in partnership with Mobile Makerspace to kickoff "Engaging Teens for Technology," a Library initiative supported through a grant from Wells Fargo Bank. For more information, please call 208-7570. ❖

Lego-Mania

Use your imagination and challenge your building skills – from "My First Zoo" to the "Hogwarts Castle," "SpongeBob" to "Star Wars," and everything in between! All ages are invited. Children under the age of five must be accompanied by an adult. Come Share the Fun! Sundays, March 8, 1:30 – 3 p.m. at the Ben May Main Library. For more information, call the Ben May Main Library Children's Department at 208-7086. ❖

2015 Young Authors' Conference

Guest speaker, R. Gregory Christie

Come meet award-winning illustrator, R. Gregory Christie on Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m. - Noon at the West Regional Branch of the library. Mr. Christie has illustrated over fifty books for young readers, as well as collaborated with clients on a variety of projects, such as the United States Post Office, New York City's Subway System, The New Yorker, Rolling Stone, Vibe, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Kennedy Center, Pete Seeger, Queen Latifah, and Karyn Parsons. His books include: *The Deaf Musicians* (Pete Seeger), *Make Way for Dyamonde Daniels* (Nikki Grimes), *Richard Wright and the Library Card* (William Miller), *Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan* (Mary Williams), and many others.

Mr. Christie is a two time recipient of the New York Times' 10 Best Illustrated Children's Books of the Year Award; the Boston Globe's Horn Book Award; the NAACP's Image Award; the Once Upon a World Children's Book Award from the Museum of Tolerance; and a three time winner of the Coretta Scott King Honor Award in Illustration.

In addition to the morning Conference for students in grades 3-6, a Teen Writing Fair and Workshop is scheduled for the afternoon from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. for grades 7-12. Students will meet and talk to published authors and others who make a living from writing for newspapers, magazines, and websites. They will participate in writing activities and discussions as well.

For more information on the Conference, call 251-391-5376 or email gillespiee@gmail.com. For more information on the author and his books, go to www.gas-art.com. This event is sponsored by First Community Bank, the Metro Mobile Reading Council and the Mobile Public Library. ❖

Steppin' Out Contributor To Hold Book Signing

Arthur L. Mack, a contributing columnist for *Steppin' Out*, will autograph copies of his debut novel, *Dignity Before Dollars* on Saturday, May 21 from 6-9 p.m. at the Mobile Marriott Hotel, located at 3101 Airport Boulevard in Mobile.

In addition, limited copies of *Dignity Before Dollars* will also be available for sale during the event.

Mack, who has been writing for *Steppin' Out* since 2009, started work on the novel in 1982. He based it on a life-changing event while he was working at a local department store after a tour of active duty in the Navy.

Dignity Before Dollars has been described by Mack as "a mixture of *Mutiny on the Bounty*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Do the Right Thing*." The main character in the novel, Maurice Edwards, is a young, talented African-American professional who is battling racial discrimination, police brutality, and office politics.

"The novel was started almost 33 years ago, and it dealt with those issues," Mack said. "It's amazing that here we are in 2015, and we're still seeing the same old stuff. It's funny how history repeats itself! At the same time, the book has its share of mystery, adventure, and lots of romance between a loving couple."

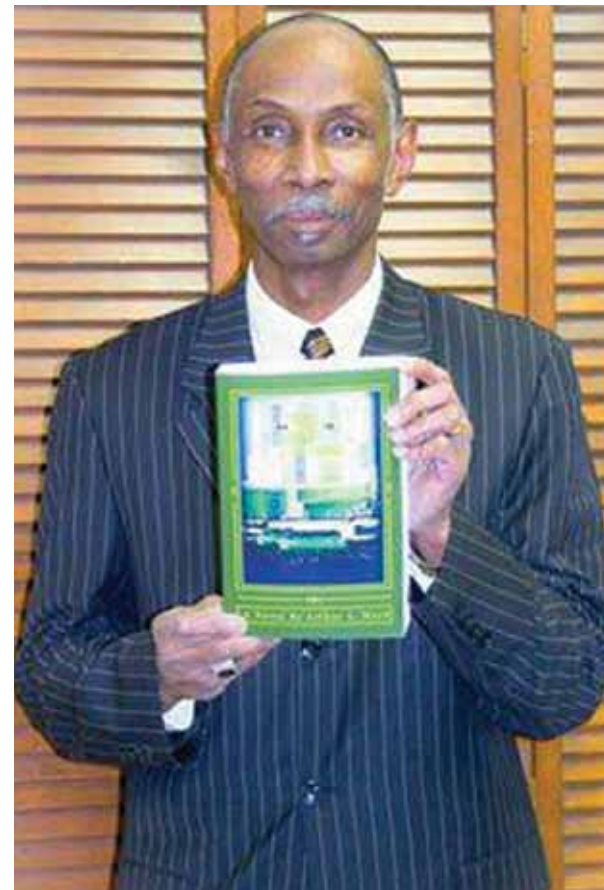
Despite several setbacks in bringing the novel to print, which included numerous rejection notices and having to put efforts to publish the book on hold because of family and work obligations, Mack finally got an opportunity to complete the novel when in July of 2014, he became involved with Network 4 Networth, a local networking group.

"It was a blessing hooking up with Network 4 Networth," Mack said. "One of the members of the group had experiences in self-publishing, and I was able to work with her and learn the ins and outs of getting my novel self-published. Without it, there's no telling when—or if—the book would have been published. I also want to thank *Steppin' Out* for helping me to get the word out about this endeavor."

"After four decades of rejection, setbacks, and putting this project on hold because of work, family obligations, and being involved in various community projects, I thank God that this dream of mine has finally come to fruition. While the subject matter won't please everybody—that's not the point of the novel. The point I'm trying to make is that there are things that happened in the 80s that are just as relevant today—and people need to be aware that being accepted on your own terms is a never-ending battle."

To purchase *Dignity Before Dollars* online, go to Amazon.com or www.createspace.com/4911670.

❖



FLAVA (continued from Page 06)

to work for his father's culinary adversary in this drama based on the bestselling novel by Richard C. Morais. The film runs 122 minutes and is rated PG. For more information, call 208-7097.

SATURDAY MATINEE

Saturday March 21, 2 p.m., Saraland Public Library, 111 Saraland Loop. Big Hero 6: When a criminal plot threatens the hi-tech metropolis of San Fransokyo, brilliant young robotics whiz Hiro Hamada leaps into action with his tech-savvy friends, and his robot companion Baymax. The film runs 93 minutes and is rated PG. For more information, please call 675-2879.

AMERICAN GIRL BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 24, 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! Aloha Kanani is the topic of our discussion. For more information or to register, call the Children's Department at 340-8571.

MOVIE TIME WITH MR. BUTCH

Friday, March 27, 4 p.m., Moorer/Spring Hill Branch, 4 South McGregor Avenue. Disney Classics - Darby O'Gill and the Little People: The story, based on the writings of H.T. Kavanagh, involves one Darby O'Gill, an Irish tall-tale spinner who works as a caretaker. On the night that he is replaced by a younger man, Darby heads home to tell his daughter Katie that he has lost his job. En route, he stumbles into the underground leprechaun kingdom. The film runs 93 minutes and is rated G. For more information, please call 470-7770 or email ftigner@mplonline.org.

CLASSICS REVISITED BOOK CLUB

Monday, March 30, 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 topic of discussion is White Fang by Jack London. For more information, please call 208-7902.

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

Prichard Library News

PRICHARD & MITCHELL LIBRARIES

Friday, Mar 6, 12:00-1:00 P.M., ages 3-13 years old. Activity includes a video **THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS "GETS ANTS IN ITS PANTS"**. The Magic School Bus goes into show business when Keesha directs a movie about social animals for the school science fair.

Friday, Mar 13, 12:00-1:00 P.M., ages 3-13 years old. Activity includes a video: **ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS**, is a heartwarming adventure of a 19th century Indian girl who becomes stranded on a remote island off the California coast.

Friday, Mar 20, 12:00-1:00 P.M., ages 3-13 years old. Activity includes a video: **"ROCK N LEARN "ALPHABET"**. Let "Alphabet Al" be your child's guide to this exciting adventure, Live action, animation, songs, and games make learning the alphabet fast and fun.

Friday, Mar 27, 12:00-1:00 P.M., ages 3-13 years old. Activity includes a video: **"HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS"**. Most kids would love to have a shiny red dirt bike, yet few would go as far as Billy to get it! He makes a bet with his friends that for \$50 he'll Eat a worm every day for 15 days. ♣

18th Annual State of the City & County Lunch

Wednesday, March 18
Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center



Join City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson and Mobile County Commission President Connie Hudson as they discuss the state of our local government at this annual Chamber event.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$250 for a table of 10 (Chamber members only) or \$35 per person for nonmembers.

Program Sponsors: Aker Solutions, Alabama Power Co., AM/NS Calvert, Arkema Inc., Austal USA, Robert J. Baggett Inc., BBVA Compass, Burton Property Group, C-Spire, Continental Motors Group, Hargrove Engineers + Constructors, Infirmary Health, Ingalls Shipbuilding, International Shipholding Corp, Mitsubishi Polysilicon, Mobile Gas, a Senvra Co. and PNC Financial Services.

Reservations and advanced payment are required. Call 251-431-8621 or email chunt@mobilechamber.com

CALENDAR

March 2015

MOBILE

CONCERTS

Helmet-Soul Kitchen, 3/1
 The Mastersons, Aaron Lee Tasjan-Callaghans, 3/1
 Humming House-Callaghans, 3/4
 Kevin Gates-Soul Kitchen, 3/5
 William Clark Green, Robert Earl Keen-Saenger Theater, 3/6
 J.W. Teller-Blind Mule, 3/6
 Mike Epps-Civic Center, 3/7
 Saints of Valory-Soul Kitchen, 3/8
 Dylan LeBlanc-Callaghans, 3/8
 Flow Tribe-Soul Kitchen, 3/12
 Elvis Costello-Saenger Theater, 3/13
 Big Al & The Heavyweights-Blues Tavern, 3/13
 Voice Play, Street Corner Symphony-Saenger Theater, 3/14

Dumpstaphunk-O'Daly's, 3/14
 Spoken Nerd, Cory Taylor Cox, J.W. Taylor-Alchemy Tavern, 3/15
 Leon Bridges-Soul Kitchen, 3/15
 Trombone Shorty & Orleans Ave.-Soul Kitchen, 3/19
 The Stolen Faces-Soul Kitchen, 3/21
 J. Cole, Bas, Cozz-Soul Kitchen, 3/25
 Led Zeppelin Experience-Soul Kitchen, 3/26
 Nick Moss Band-Blues Tavern, 3/27
 Sam Holt Band-Soul Kitchen, 3/28

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 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-Camino Real-Cobb Arts Centre, 3/20-22

CONCERTS

Katt Williams-Phillips Arena, 3/1
 Chris Brown, Trey Songz, Tyga-Phillips Arena, 3/2
 Jazmine Sullivan-Center Stage Theatre, 3/4
 Pauly Shore-Atlanta Live, 3/5-7
 Gilbert Gottfried-Atlanta Live, 3/12-14
 John Mellencamp, Carlene Carter-Fox Theatre, 3/13
 George Winston-Variety Playhouse, 3/22
 CeCe Winans, Israel Houghton, Gerald Albright, DeLeon Richards, Marcus Cole, Keith Staten, Vonnice Lopez, Leon Timbo-Cobb Arts Centre, 3/23
 Ariana Grande-Phillip Arena, 3/24
 Fleetwood Mac-Phillip Arena, 3/25
 Incognito, Maysa-Cobb Arts Centre, 3/26
 Ron White-Cobb Arts Centre, 3/28
 Ledisi, Raheem DeVaughn, Leela James-Woodruff Arts Centre, 3/29

FAMILY SHOWS

Ringling Brothers Circus-Gwinnett Arena, 3/1
 The Harlem Globetrotters-Phillip Arena, 3/7
 The Harlem Globetrotters-Gwinnett Center, 3/14

ATMORE

CONCERTS

Ronnie Milsap, Thompson Square-Windcreek, 3/28

BILOXI

CONCERTS

Aaron Lewis-Hard Rock Live, 3/6
 Rodney Carrington-Beau Rivage, 3/6
 Willie Nelson-IP Casino, Resort & Spa, 3/6-7
 Mannie Fresh, Juvenile, Mystical-Kress Live, 3/7
 Red, Islander, 3 years Hollow-Kress Live, 3/8
 Keith Sweat-Kress Live, 3/13
 Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, B.J. Thomas-Golden Nugget, 3/13

Four Tops, The Temptations-IP Casino, Resort and Spa, 3/13
 Kansas-Hard Rock Live, 3/13
 Santana-Beau Rivage, 3/13
 Startisan-Kress Live, 3/20
 Tracy Lawrence-Golden Nugget, 3/20
 The Guess Who, Jamey Johnson-Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 3/20
 Engelbert Humperdinck-Beau Rivage, 3/20
 Loretta Lynn-IP Casino, Resort & Spa, 3/20
 Miranda Lambert, Justin Moore, Danielle Bradbery -Coast Coliseum, 3/21
 Party At The Moontower-Kress Live, 3/21
 Martina McBride-Beau Rivage, 3/27
 Travis Tritt-IP Casino, Resort and Spa, 3/27
 Framing The Red, Wayland-Kress Live, 3/27

BIRMINGHAM

CONCERTS

Little Big Town, Chris Stapleton-BJCC Concert Hall, 3/6
 Sam Fermin-Alys Stephens Center, 3/6
 Aaron Neville-Alys Stephens Center, 3/7
 Gladys Knight-BJCC Concert Hall, 3/7
 Willie Nelson-Iron City, 3/8
 John Mellencamp, Carlene Carter-BJCC Concert Hall, 3/12
 Santana-BJCC Concert Hall, 3/15
 Miranda Lambert, Justin Moore, Danielle Bradbery -BJCC Legacy Arena, 3/19
 CeCe Winans, Israel Houghton, Gerald Albright, DeLeon Richards, Marcus Cole, Keith Staten, Vonnice Lopez, Leon Timbo-Alabama Theater, 3/20
 The Wailers-Alys Stephens Center, 3/20
 Sarah McLachlan-BJCC Concert Hall, 3/31

FAMILY SHOWS

The Harlem Globetrotters-Samford, 3/15

DAPHNE

CONCERTS

Missused-Top of The Bay Lounge, 3/21

NEW ORLEANS

CONCERTS

Avery Sunshine-House of Blues, 3/7
 Katt Williams-Lakefront Arena, 3/7
 Journey, Steve Miller Band-Smoothie King Center, 3/8
 Tobymac, Mandisa, Capital Kings-Saenger Theatre, 3/8
 John Mellencamp, Carlene Carter-Saenger Theatre, 3/10
 Chris Brown, Trey Songz, Tyga-Smoothie King Center, 3/12
 Elvis Costello-Civic Theatre, 3/12
 Charlie Wilson, Kem, Joe-Smoothie King Center, 3/14



Stevie Wonder - Smoothie King Center, 3/24

Mystical-Southport Hall, 3/20
 Mary Chapin Carpenter, Aoife O'Donovan-Civic Theatre, 3/26
 Earphunk, Strand of Oaks, Drive-By Truckers, Moon Hooch -City Park, 3/27

FAMILY SHOWS

Shrine Circus-Lakefront Arena, 3/22

SYMPHONY

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra-Mahalia Jackson Theater, 3/6, 19

OCEAN SPRINGS

CONCERTS

Jeremiah James-Toby Keith's Bar, 3/13-14
 Florida-Georgia Line, Thomas Rhett, Frankie Ballard -The Wharf, 3/21

(continued on Page 22... see **CALENDAR**)

Ask Flo!



DEAR FLO:

Why are the eyes more important than the heart to some people?

—Jason

DEAR JASON:

This is the questions of ages. We live in a society that wants a quick fix, quick answer, and instant everything. It is in that spirit that we often believe more of what we see (instantly) than what we feel. It is hard to really know who a person is simply by how they present themselves. We are often fooled by our eyes. People play dress-up, even as adults and we assume that how they look denotes who they are in real life. Our eyes are often our biggest enemies. Our eyes quickly make us feel comfortable because what we want is perfection, pretty, or preppy. Our heart will often tell us different by that pang in our stomach that says “something is not right”. We, however, would rather go with what makes us feel good at the moment. It’s human nature. However, people do grow. Although it is often through pain that we began to lean toward lessons learned through our heart and not our eyes.

It wasn’t until the right look of a man lied to me that I began to look for the right heart of a man. It wasn’t until the right look of a job didn’t pay me that I began to validate for myself. It wasn’t until the right look of a great deal left me broke and disgusted that I learned to investigate. To every eye there is something pleasing; for every heart there is something true. So the why, I don’t know. But I can tell you that if you seek your own truth, believe your heart and mind over your eyes you will find yourself in better company. Please remember that beauty will fade but the truth of the heart tells no lies.

❖

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

Tinker Session for Teens

Learn how to program your own interactive stories, games and animations with “Scratch.” Scratch is a project of the Lifelong Kindergarten Group at the MIT Media Lab. Registration is encouraged. Saturday, March 14, 2 p.m. at the Moorer/Spring Hill Branch of the library. For more information or to register, please call 470-7770 or email eenglish@mplonline.org. ❖

MOBILE OPERA - Afternoon of the Stars Meet the Cast of Manon Lescaut

Members of the cast of Mobile Opera’s Manon Lescaut will perform their favorite musical selections on Sunday, March 15, 3 p.m. at Bernheim Hall, Ben May Main Library. The Stage Director will be on hand to describe the creative process behind the production of Manon Lescaut and Maestro Andy Anderson will provide commentary about the music and introduce the performers. Come hear beautiful music and meet the stars over light refreshments following the performance. Admission is free. For more information, please call 208-7097 or go to <http://www.mobileopera.org>. ❖

The Reel Life of Eugene Walter

Sunday, March 29, 2 p.m. Bernheim Hall at the Ben May Main Library, Donald Goodman, a Eugene Walter biographer (The Happy Table of Eugene Walter, Southern Spirits in Food and Drink) and manager of the Mobile writer’s estate, presents “The Reel Life of Eugene Walter” with rarely-seen clips from the movies in which the writer appeared. Walter enjoyed long sojourns in New York, Rome, and Paris when he wasn’t at home in the South. He was a man of arts and letters who landed roles in many foreign films ranging from low-budget Italian thrillers to internationally renowned classics directed by Federico Fellini. Through it all, Walter’s world-view remained uniquely and steadfastly Southern. ❖

Lights and Bells To Commemorate Bloody Sunday March

Lights will go up and bells will toll this weekend in Mobile County as part of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery that led to voting rights for African-Americans.

Organizing under the theme “Let freedom Ring – Bear Witness to Selma,” Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood has asked faith leaders throughout the county to toll their church bells - or otherwise to recognize the anniversary - 11 a.m. Sunday in observance of what came to be known as “Bloody Sunday.” More than 300 invitations were sent out to houses of worship for the commemoration.

At the same time, Commissioner Ludgood garnered the participation of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, which will light up their downtown properties with red, white and blue for the historical celebration.

“It is breathtaking to see the distance we have covered in 50 years,” Ludgood said, “and extremely gratifying to celebrate with so many in our community. It’s an opportunity to remind ourselves of our shared history and to take on the challenges presented to us in the 21st century.”

While the march occurred in Selma, its impact is felt throughout the country. In Mobile County, it changed the forms of government at the city and the county, and ultimately paved the way for elections of African-Americans to the top jobs in both venues.

Commissioner Ludgood, an African-American, said the country continues to grapple with race issues that include changes to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that threaten to roll back the gains made as a result of this law. Additionally, there are generations of young people for whom Bloody Sunday is a mere “historical footnote,” and who don’t even value the right to vote enough to exercise that right.

“We have to recommit to the work that remains,” she said. ❖



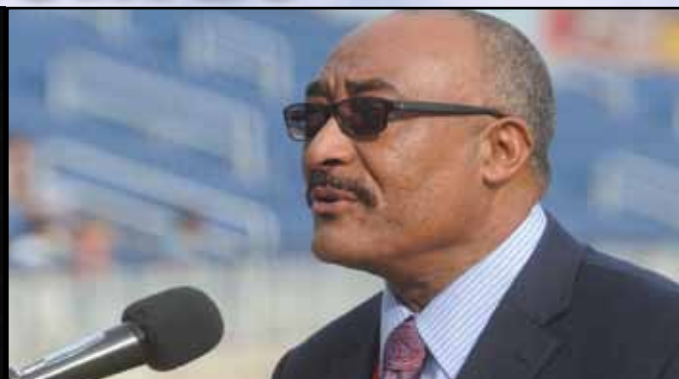
VOLUNTEER FAIR & FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL
FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2015
6:00-8:00pm
Cathedral Square

Come downtown during the LoDa ArtWalk and join over 50 non-profit organizations to find out how to get involved. Stay for our first-ever Food Truck Festival and the SouthSounds Art & Music Festival.



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FEBRUARY 2015 PASSINGS



DR. JAMES LOWE-67 • PRESIDENT (BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE) • **Complications from Fall**



ERNIE BANKS-83
MLB
(Cubs)
Heart Attack



VINCE CAMUTO-78
SHOE DESIGNER
(Nine West)
Prostate Cancer



BILLY CASPER-83
GOLFER
Pneumonia



MOVITA CASTANEDA-98
ACTRESS
(Mutiny on the Bounty)
Neck Injury



DAVE CORRIVEAU-63
CO-FOUNDER OF
DAVE & BUSTER'S



DON COVAY-76
SINGER
(I Was Checkin' Out)



BRETT EWINS-59
ILLUSTRATOR
(Judge Dredd)
Emphysema



JOE FRANKLIN-88
TV & RADIO HOST
Prostate Cancer



LESLEY GORE-68
SINGER
(It's My Party)
Lung Cancer



RON JOHNSON-76
NBA
(LAKERS)
Aneurysm



LOUIS JOURDAN-93
ACTOR
(Gigi; Octopussy)



JEROME KERSEY-52
NBA
(Trailblazers)



ANNE KIRKBRIDE-60
ACTRESS
Breast Cancer



ANN MARA-85
NFL OWNER
(Giants)
Fall



MUNA OBIEKWE-36
ACTOR
Kidney Disease



GARY OWENS-80
ANNOUNCER
(Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In)
Diabetes



ED SABOL-98
FOUNDER OF NFL FILMS



CHARLIE SIFFORD-92
GOLFER
Stroke



DEAN SMITH-83
BASKETBALL COACH
(North Carolina)



JERRY TARKANIAN-84
BASKETBALL COACH
(UNLV)

EXPRESSIONS: RIGHT OR WRONG

Lisa Johnson — A Poet and Writer who lives in Mobile



My heart is heavy because our children suffer when we as adults make decisions to leave our family in search of a new family. That is CRAZY!!! Not once does the departing mother or father think or blink twice about the emotional scars they leave on their children. It's all about them and what they want; thinking the grass is greener on the other side! If you are that departing parent and you're reading this, then SHAME on you! Do you have any idea the emotional turmoil you have placed within your child(ren)? It really bothers me when I hear comments saying, "Oh my son or daughter will bounce back, they'll be alright." That is the most ridiculous statement anyone can ever make when they have left their child for selfish reasons. If you want to leave your mate, then that's on you but don't leave the child (1 Corinthians 7:10-16). If you have left the home, make sure you explain and show your child(ren) that you're not leaving them and that you love them always!!! The departing parent doesn't hear the sighs, cries, see the disappointed faces when the father or mother has lied saying, "I'm coming by to see you or I'll be there on such and such day to see you" and then they don't have the decency to call and say I can't make it. No matter how much the stay home parent is home with their child(ren), it doesn't negate the hurt of the child(ren) from missing their departed parent. They still miss mommy or daddy in their life. I pray that the light bulb comes on and that the departing parent realizes that no matter who or what's new in their life, that it still doesn't exempt them from the responsibility of being there for their child(ren). Think about the message our children are getting when we as adults don't handle our responsibility. Hopefully, the stay home parent can instill in their child(ren) that God hasn't left them nor will he forsake them (Psalms 27:10). I've come to realize that you can't make a grown person do something that they don't want to do!!! Rest assured God is true to his Word at Galatians 6:7-9. Whatever you do, please don't put the departing parent down in front of your child(ren). If you must vent, do it away from them because it just hurts them worse! My advice to the stay home parent is to keep doing what is right and not lose your blessings because the asinine departed parent doesn't want to step up and do the right thing by handling their business! ♣

CALENDAR (continued from Page 19)

OCEAN SPRINGS CONCERTS



Big Al & The Heavyweights-Murky Waters, 3/17

PENSACOLA CONCERTS

Senses Fall, Kublai Khan, The Vagrants
-Vinyl Music Hall, 3/4

The Green, Through The Roots- Vinyl
Music Hall, 3/5

Alex & Sierra, Andy Grammer, Paradise Fears,
Rachel Platten-Vinyl Music Hall, 3/6

Eric Lindell, BIG K.R.I.T.-Vinyl Music Hall, 3/7
Generationals, Rose Quartz-Vinyl Music Hall, 3/8

Waka Flocka Flame, Sir Michael Rocks,
Ben G, Dj Whoo Kid-Vinyl Music Hall, 3/11
Kevin James-Saenger, 3/12
Surfer Blood, Turbo Fruit-Vinyl Music Hall, 3/13
Wray-Sluggo's, 3/20
Five Eight-Vinyl Music Hall, 3/21
Tribal Seeds, The Movement, Leilani Wolgramm
-Vinyl Music Hall, 3/22
Code Orange, Harms Way, Eternal Sleep
-The Handlebar, 3/23
The Wailers, Heritage-Vinyl Music Hall, 3/24
Olio-Grunge Bar, 3/25
Atmosphere, Prof, Dem Atlas, DJ Fundo
-Vinyl Music Hall, 3/25
Uh Huh Baby Yeah!, Lion In The Mane,
Dreamcatcher-The Handlebar, 3/26

SILVERHILL CONCERTS

Alvin Youngblood Hart, Cary Morin, Ray
Bonneville-Blue Moon Farm, 3/1
Will Kimbrough, Dave Olney, Sergio Webb,
Grayson Capps-Blue Moon Farm, 3/8, 15
Willie Sugarcapps-Blue Moon Farm, 3/22



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Author and recipient of
Katharine Drexel Society
Literary Award

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MARKETING YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS

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.



Enhancing Your Quality of Life in the New Economy

Employment and entrepreneurship utilizes our passions and skills and we receive compensation. This compensation provides options and fuels our quality of life. The New Economy has many questioning how best to derive an income.

Today's economy is comprised of global and niche competition, viral environments, daily decisions made on revenue streams and profits. As an individual, developing a career within this setting requires utilizing marketing strategies and a diversity of revenue streams.

The proceeding is a proven three-prong career strategy, successfully utilized to gain experience and ensure cash flow. **WARNING:** This strategy requires proficiency in time management.

EMPLOYMENT

With an improved economy, companies are now cautiously hiring. Yet, they are also evaluating operational opportunities such as temping and outsourcing. A recent report from Bureau of Labor Statistics documented median employee tenure at 4.6 years (or 8.7 jobs within a forty year career). If you read my January 2015 article: **EMPLOYMENT TIPS FOR 2015—Leaving The Great Recession Behind**, you will understand how to create value in your employment campaign.

ENTREPRENEURIAL

Micro-businesses are not a new concept and may be operated in conjunction with employment. You can operate as a contractor, freelancer, part-time or seasonal depending on the hours you have available. The products and/or services are typically based on experience, hobby or passion. Let's say if you are able to pay yourself \$25,000 annually, over twenty years you generate an additional half million dollars. The business will provide a buffer in times of layoffs and enhance your value by developing additional exposure and skills.

VOLUNTEER

Employers want workers with experience. One way to gain training is to volunteer with non profits. You pay forward by assisting and gain valuable skills. In addition, non-profit volunteers come from all walks of life, once they become aware of your excellence – your business and/or employment will be enhanced.

This is a new economy. Some of you will be blessed with tenure, others are stuck in unsatisfactory positions and even more will become a statistic as stated above. If you are happy with your career, keep doing what you are doing. If not, this is a proven concept to enhance your skills and position you for success. ♣

BRAINWASHING) (continued from Page 16)

And, he needs to take a closer look at history—particularly Black History and the struggles his ancestors surely faced back in the day. A closer study of the Black experience should enlighten him, because at the end of the day, it's not about being a rising star of the right or a target of the left—it's about common sense. ♣



LAUGHTER

WE'RE ALL WINNERS!!!

Four women meet at their 30 year reunion. One goes to get drinks for the group while the other 3 start to talk about how successful their sons became. Barbara says her son studied economics, became a banker and is so rich he gave his best friend a BMW. Doris said her son became a pilot, started his own airline and became so rich he gave his friend a Lifetime Pass that will allow him to fly anywhere he wants to travel on a private jet as often as he likes. Hattie said her son became an engineer, started his own development company and became so rich he built his friend a mansion. Willie Mae came back with all the drinks and asked what the conversation was all about while she was away. They told her they were talking about how successful their sons became and asked her about her son. She said her son is gay and he works in a Gay Bar. The other three snickered and said she must be very disappointed with her son for not becoming successful as theirs'. "Oh no!!" said Willie Mae, "he is doing extremely well. Last week on his birthday he got a BMW, a lifetime pass for a private charter and a mansion from 3 of his boyfriends." All three of her girlfriends passed out!!! ☺

EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!!!

Leroy had been dating his girlfriend for 3 years and finally popped the question. When she consented, they decided to travel to her home town so he could meet her parents. The prospective son-in-law was asked by his girl friend's father, "Son, are you able to support a family?" "Well, no, sir," Leroy replied. "I was just planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves!!!" ☺

LET ME SUGGEST!!!

Three nuns went to a football game and three men got stuck sitting behind them. The men couldn't see very well because of the nun's little nun hats. So they came up with a plan to make them leave. "I think I'll move to California, there's only 50 Catholics there," said the first man. "I think I'll move to Washington, there's only 25 Catholics there," said the second man. "I think I'll move to Idaho, there's only 10 Catholics there," said the third man. Willie Mae, the head nun turned around and said, "Why don't you all Go to Hell...there are NO Catholics there!!!" ☺

AWARD WINNING LECTURE!!!

Bubba was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. The officer asked him where he was going at that time of night. Bubba replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late." The officer said, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?" Bubba replied, "That would be my wife!!!" ☺

LET'S BE FRIENDS!!!

Little Leroy had been staring at his dinner plate for well over an hour. His Mom finally said, "I see you finished the meat on that plate an hour ago. Now eat your vegetables." Little Leroy replied, "I hate vegetables!" His Mom said, "But they like you." Little Leroy replied, "That's because I don't eat them!!!" ☺

PLAN B???

Bubba bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for her birthday. After hearing about this extravagant gift, a friend of his said, "I thought she wanted one of those sporty four-wheel-drive vehicles." "She did," Bubba replied. "But where was I going to find a fake Jeep???" ☺

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