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AUGUST 8, 2013 - AUGUST 21, 2013

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## DEAD HEAT

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Infirmary "whistle blower" update

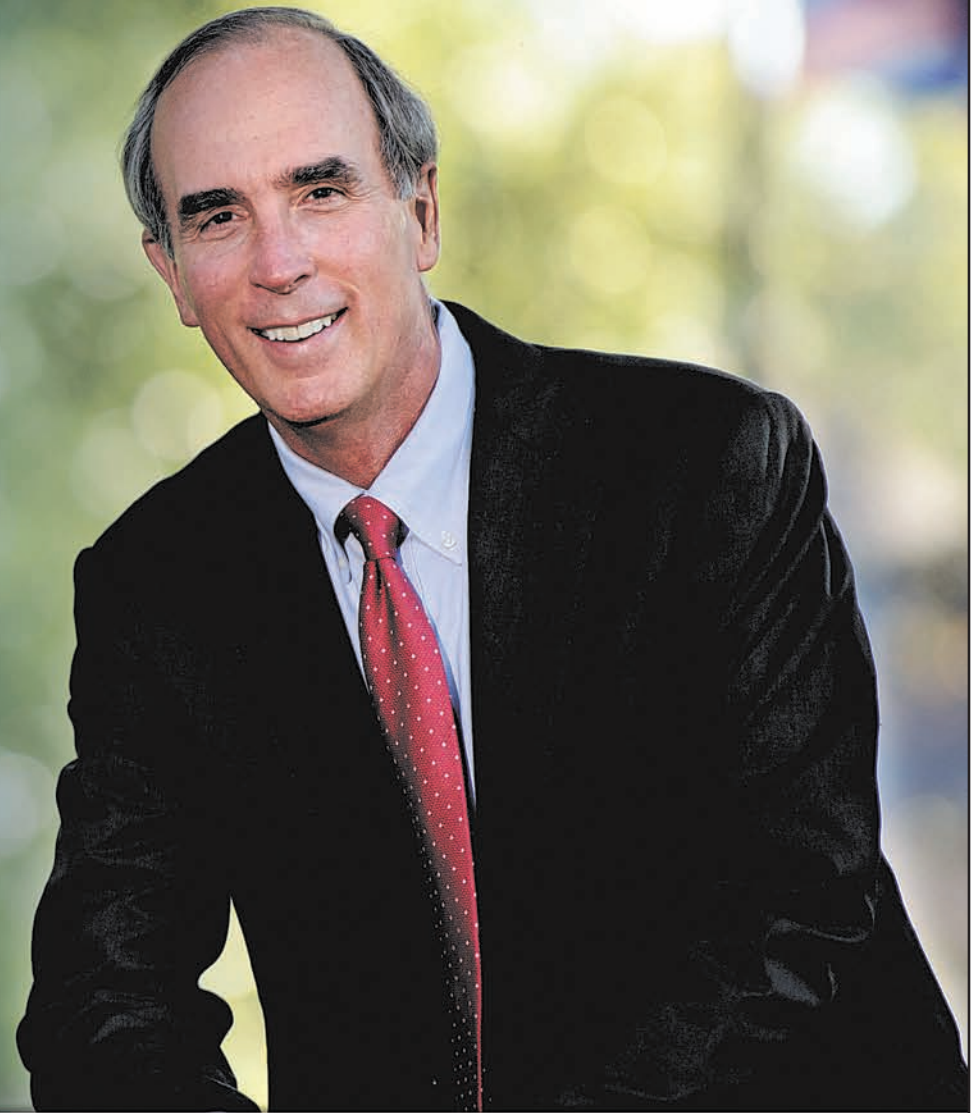
# Sandy Stimpson

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**On the Cover:** Laura Rasmussen "Dead Heat"

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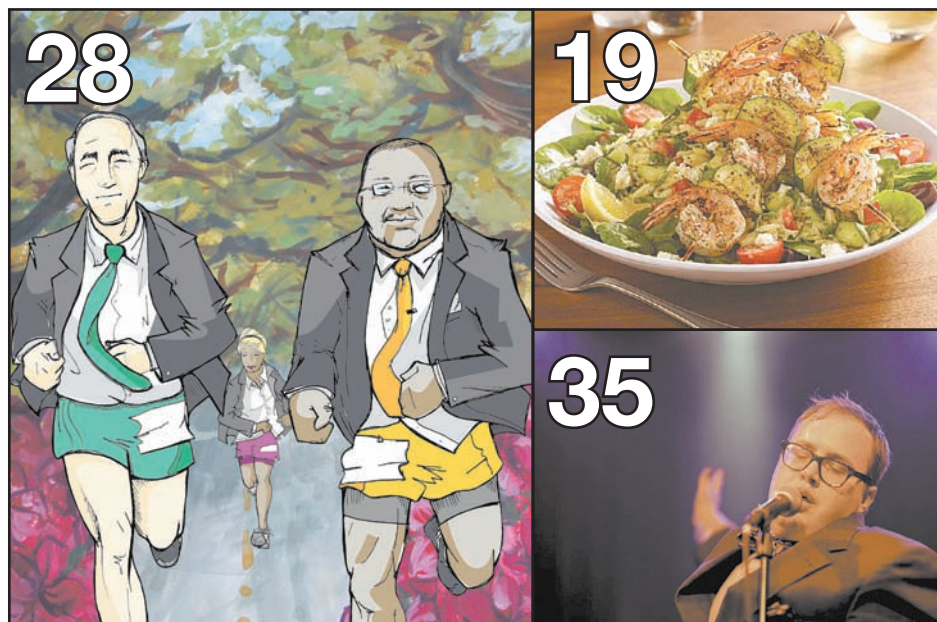
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## Council rehashes old issues

BY KATIE NICHOLS, News Editor, [katie@lagniappemobile.com](mailto:katie@lagniappemobile.com)

The Mobile City Council revisited several old items during the Aug. 6 regular meeting.

During the July 31 council meeting, the city officially joined Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS), Mobile County and countless residents to stand together against the construction of the crude oil pipeline within the watershed of Big Creek Lake. The pipeline would move oil from the Mobile River all the way to the Chevron refinery in Pascagoula and has encountered a great deal of opposition in the past couple of months.

Many of the councilors were concerned about who exactly is the person or entity that would be able to move or stop construction of the pipeline. Council attorney Jim Rossler advised the council that creating a resolution against the pipeline would be the best thing for the city.

"Short of going out and standing in front of the bulldozers, this is what you do to oppose it," he said. "This is a more targeted approach."

However during the Aug. 6 meeting, Councilwoman Bess Rich asked if the resolution had been sent to anyone concerning the city's position on moving or stopping the pipeline. She was told by the administration that no one had sent the resolution, but a plan was made to mail out the city's stance on the Big Creek Lake pipeline to the governor, Plains Southcap, and all other entities involved.

During the July 31 meeting, an item allocating \$4,386,000 to capital improvements throughout the city that range from repairing a heavily used road to creating a skate park in the city was

approved.

The next costly item in the list of projects is for the building of a skate park at Public Safety Memorial Park, which will be an 8,661-square-foot skate park and cost \$450,000.

Mayor Sam Jones announced during the Aug. 6 council meeting that the city would open up the skate park for bidding in three weeks. The mayor said the bidding process for building the park is expected to take 60 days and then construction will only take another 60 days.

On July 16, the councilors approved entering into a contract with Hosea O. Weaver and Sons, Inc., for roadway and intersection improvements to Airbus Way and Aerospace Drive, which are the entranceways into the Airbus site at Brookley Aeroplex.

City attorney Larry Wettermark said the entrance would be a "showpiece" and cost the city much less than the \$3.5 million maximum approved for the contract.

"This is a contractual obligation among the state, Mobile County, the city and Airbus. In that contract, it states the city will pay for the improvements, but the county and state will reimburse the city \$1 million each," Wettermark said. "The city will in actuality only pay \$1,488,673.30."

Another street in the area will see improvement as well. On Aug. 6, the council authorized a contract with Volkert, Inc., for Baker Street and Baker Street Extension improvements and construction for the Airbus Airplane Component Route. The improvements will cost the city \$138,000.

## MCPSS starts new campaign

BY KATIE NICHOLS, News Editor, [katie@lagniappemobile.com](mailto:katie@lagniappemobile.com)

With more than 59,000 students enrolled, the Mobile County Public Schools System wants to promote the positive features of the day-to-day life in public schools in the county.

A new initiative will hopefully get the word out MCPSS Superintendent Martha Peek said on Aug. 6 during the unveiling of the "It Starts With Us" campaign.

"So many times people don't hear about the positive things in the (MCPSS)," Peek said. "That's what we're changing."

The first part of the marketing initiative was a new logo for the school system, which features Barton Academy. Peek said the school represents where education started in Mobile.

Another part of the "It Starts With Us" campaign is the new website feature MCPSS TV, video ads featuring prominent alumni from the system. Peek showed two videos during the Aug. 6 unveiling. The first was of Scott Hunter, a former NFL quarterback who graduated from Vigor High School. The second was of state Senator Vivian Figures, who went through the public schools as well.

Peek said the "It Starts With Us" campaign is more than just marketing. It is also the beginning of a public-private partnership.

"This campaign is about people believing in the school system and promoting it," she said.

Daniel Dennis, who is with Roberts Brothers, said promoting and helping the MCPSS is important on an ethical level as well as a fiscal level.

"Mobile needs all the programs already in place in schools to be successful. The kids need them to be successful. It's not just a moral issue,

but an economic issue," he said. "At Roberts Brothers, we are making sure to support the school system any way possible, but there needs to be other businesses helping."

Dennis, who graduated from a private school, said the "It Starts With Us" campaign is not about private schools versus public schools, but instead it is about doing the best for everyone.

Mobile Area Education Foundation Executive Director Carolyn Akers also noted the possible economic benefits for more students graduating. In 2012, the MCPSS graduation rate was 70 percent.

Citing a study conducted by the Alliance For Excellent Education, Akers said if 50 percent more MCPSS students graduated in 2010, then 1,500 more students would have had a high school diploma. That means another \$4.3 million in investments into the area and 150 new jobs. It also means there would have been \$1.1 million more in tax revenue.

"Making sure all Mobile County Public School students graduate ready for college, career and life is the job of the entire community, not just the school system," she said. "And that is why the partnership between MAEF and the new MCPSS slogan 'It Starts With Us' is so important. It shows the community that economic growth, healthy citizens and safer neighborhoods all begin with a school system and community that is doing the work to produce successful students."

The new MCPSS website can be found at [www.mcpss.com](http://www.mcpss.com) and features the new MCPSS TV, which will always be playing information and news about schools within the system.



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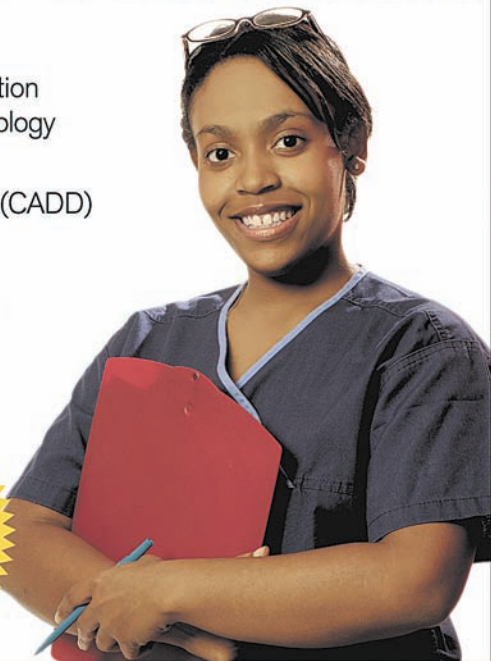
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# Police captains in mayor's misleading campaign ad violated department policy

BY KATIE NICHOLS & ROB HOLBERT

A new campaign ad for Mobile Mayor Sam Jones is raising the eyebrows of some voters who have noticed the bachelor mayor claims being a husband as one of his many attributes. The commercial also contains an appearance by two on-duty uniformed Mobile Police captains who were requested to show up at the shoot by city officials in a direct violation of the department's General Order 26.

Within the first few seconds of the new ad, which can be viewed on the mayor's reelection Facebook page, a list of Jones' accomplishments and characteristics are presented. One of those appears to fly in the face of the widely held belief Jones is single.

The ad begins "Sam Jones ... Navy veteran, husband, father, grandfather, church deacon, commissioner and now our mayor."

While Jones is a Navy veteran, former Mobile County Commissioner, church deacon and mayor, he has previously stated he was single and did not have children.

In Lagniappe's 2005 profile of Jones when he was first vying for the mayoral seat, and in his economic interest reports filed with the Mobile County Probate Court, he listed his marriage status and number of children as "n/a," which means not applicable.

Steve Raby, Jones' campaign manager, said the ad was still "factual."

"Sam Jones served in the Navy period. Sam Jones was a husband before he was a father and before he was a grandfather period. Sam Jones was an ordained church deacon period. Sam Jones was a Mobile County Commissioner period. Sam Jones is our mayor period," Raby said. "The ad is factual."

When asked when Jones became a father or if he is still married, Raby only said the ad was "factual" or to ask Jones.

A Lagniappe reporter asked Raby if he could ask Jones or

put Jones in contact with the paper to which he responded, "You can ask him in court," referring to this newspaper's suit to get public records from the city and Mobile Police Department.

City spokeswoman Barbara Drummond said she saw the ad after Raby showed it to her.

"If you listen to the voiceover, it says something to the effect of these are the past roles Mayor Jones has held," she said.

The ad does not state all of the roles were previously held although he is clearly not a commissioner anymore.

When asked if the mayor was still married and had any biological children, Drummond said that was a question for the mayor or Raby.

According to Mobile County Probate Court records, Jones married Blondie Perine aka Turner in 1977.

The Wikipedia entry on Jones does list him as single and it was last modified as of April 25, 2013. It should be noted Wikipedia does have a history of having some factual errors.

Jones website states he "is the father of two daughters and four grandchildren." The same page shows Jones in a picture with Char-Lee Ross and Tamika McCall, who are identified as his daughters.

Ross, according to Jones' Facebook page, recently had a son. Ross' maiden name, according to Mobile County Probate Court records, was Turner.

## Violation of MPD General Order

The commercial features Jones speaking with two on-duty uniformed Mobile Police officers, Captains Carla Longmire and Jack Dove. The two were called by city officials to appear in the video.

"Captains Carla Longmire and Jack Dove were on duty when they were asked to meet Mayor Sam Jones at a designated location. As a result, a commercial was produced. Neither

Chief Michael Williams nor anyone from his staff ordered the Captains to meet Mayor Jones or to appear in the commercial," MPD Legal Adviser Wanda Rahman wrote in a statement today.

Rahman confirmed the captains' appearance was indeed a violation of department policy, but said the mayor may not have known that when he included the officers in his commercial.

"Their appearance in uniform and on duty is a violation of Mobile Police Department General Order, however, I do not believe Mayor Jones knew it was a violation at the time the commercial was produced and aired," Rahman wrote.

General Order 26 deals with political or religious activity and subsection 26.19.02 states: "A member or employee may campaign or engage in political activity, however they must do so while off duty and out of uniform, and they may not use any City property in these political activities. Members and employees are expressly prohibited from engaging in any political activity while in uniform or while using City vehicles or other property. Members or employees are specifically prohibited from appearing in any political commercial, brochure, or advertisement while in uniform or while otherwise displaying any item or article that identifies a person as an employee of the Mobile Police Department. These items include but are not limited to uniforms, badges, and departmental patches."

Both officers in the ad are wearing Mobile Police Department uniforms and are seen listening to the mayor next to MPD patrol car.

Whether the violations warrant any disciplinary action is not clear at this time. Calls to the Jones campaign as to whether there are any plans to modify or withdraw the commercial have not yet been answered.



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# Mayor's campaign ad generates ethics complaint

BY GABRIEL TYNES, Web Editor/Reporter, gabe@lagniappemobile.com

A native Mobilian and small business owner filed a state ethics complaint against Mayor Sam Jones for his use of on-duty police officers and a squad car in an advertisement for his re-election campaign. William J. Appling, an 11-year veteran of the Mobile Police Department who amicably resigned in March, said he was compelled to act by the mayor's "blatant disregard" of policies limiting the political activities of municipal employees.

"It was my understanding the mayor's chief of staff ordered the officers," to meet Jones, Appling said. "Whether or not they were aware of his intentions I can't say. But I think it's worth investigating."

Jones campaign manager, Steve Raby said he was responsible for the ad. The involvement of chief of staff Al Stokes is not clear at this time.

Appling, who is also a vocal supporter of mayoral challenger Sandy Stimpson, said in his last months with the MPD he was ordered by Deputy Chief Lester Hargrove to limit his own political rhetoric. Appling said Hargrove told him to take down a parody Facebook page featuring posts favorable to Stimpson. Yet Appling said his complaint was not politically motivated, but rather a tool to stop the mayor's "frequent" use of public safety employees as "pawns."

Appling also is at odds over statements Jones has made regarding the police department's turnover. With starting salaries well

below what can be earned in other cities in the area, Appling said few young officers are often eager to climb the ranks in Mobile.

Appling said he hasn't communicated with either Jack Dove or Carla Longmire (the officers who appear in the ad) about the mayor's ad or his complaint, but as an officer, if the mayor issues an order, it's generally a duty to obey.

"I still have a lot of respect and admiration for the department and the job they do, but I'm in a position now where I'm aware of what's going on and the ability to seek change," he said.

While public employees in Alabama are free to engage in political activity or speech, law does impose certain limitations. In addition to an explicit MPD policy, Jones' use of on-duty MPD officers and equipment appears to have violated a provision of the Alabama Ethics Act stating "no public official or public employee shall use or cause to be used equipment, facilities, time, materials, human labor, or other public property under his or her discretion or control for the private benefit or business benefit of the public official, public employee, any other person, or principal campaign committee..."

The mayor has 30 days to respond to the complaint, which was notarized and faxed to the Alabama Ethics Commission Aug. 5.

Calls to the Jones campaign for comment were not returned before press time.

See page 6 for the full story on the referenced campaign ad.

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Our readers have an average household income of \$75,451, more than \$17,000 above the market average of Mobile and Baldwin counties. 24.5% of Lagniappe households earn \$100,000 or more annually.

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(\*Scarborough Research, CSA, Release 2, Oct. 2011 - Sept. 2012)

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# Stimpson fields questions from Lagniappe, Mod Mobilian in joint forum

BY KATIE NICHOLS, News Reporter, [katie@lagniappemobile.com](mailto:katie@lagniappemobile.com)

**Sitting solo on the Bernheim Hall stage in the Ben May Main Public Library on July 30, Mobile mayoral candidate Sandy Stimpson fielded a range of questions from the construction of the I-10 bridge to creating a long-range plan for Mobile. The Lagniappe and Mod Mobilian sponsored mayoral forum crafted its questions from the two entities' editorial boards, the audience, social media and questions videoed prior to the debate from people out in the community.**

Mayor Sam Jones declined the organizers' invitation to be part of the forum, saying he was only going to do three debates. The first two were held on June 4 by Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Mobile & Greater Vicinity and on July 9 by Mobile United and Leadership Mobile. The third and final debate among the candidates will be in August.

Lagniappe's Ashley Trice and Mod Mobilian's Danielle Juzan, Jessica James and Emily Hayes took turns asking the questions, but first Stimpson led off announcing he had been endorsed by the Mobile Firefighters Association — Local 1349, which is a union made up of more than 500 firefighters.

The candidate also drove home the points he has been campaigning on since he announced his intention to run for the mayor's seat.

"I'm running for mayor because I look around and I see crumbling infrastructure, people afraid of crime and young people not returning to Mobile," Stimpson said.

With that, the rapid-fire questions began with Juzan, who described herself as ModMo's left-leaning columnist, asking Stimpson about the Big Creek Lake oil pipeline, other "risky" industries surrounding Mobile and what he would do to protect Mobile.

Stimpson said he is knowledgeable about dealing with environmental agencies, environmental issues and storm water runoff because he was the only civil engineer at Scotch Gulf Lumber, where he is now CEO. Being the sole engineer meant he was responsible for filling out reports to various environmental agencies and making sure the company was meeting requirements.

He also noted there are actually going to be two pipelines in Mobile — the one carrying crude oil through the watershed from where Mobile County gets its drinking water and one carrying tar sands oil under Mobile River.

"The pipeline through Big Creek Lake should at least be rerouted," he said. "I'm hesitant to just denounce the pipeline through Mobile River until I have a clear understanding of the risks."

"I want to know the whole story. It's not fair to come out and say I'm against it."

Juzan next touched on a big point of Stimpson's campaign — the revolving door at Mobile County Metro Jail. This time, he outlined a few programs that he would work to place in the jail to rehabilitate reoccurring offenders.

"Did you know of the ninth graders in Mobile County only 60 or 65 percent are going to get a high school diploma," Stimpson said. "If students don't get a high school degree, then they have to turn to the streets to make a living."

That's why one of the two rehabilitation programs Stimpson would lobby for is ACCESS Distance Learning, which is a way for Alabamians to get a GED or high school diploma from anywhere with a computer ... even jail.

He also said he would include a program for drug rehabilitation for teens. The program identifies teens with substance abuse problems and involves their families in the rehabilitation process.

Stimpson said ultimately, fighting crime comes down to three things — "prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation."

On the other side of the spectrum, James, Mod Mobilian's conservative columnist, asked Stimpson if he supports annexation.

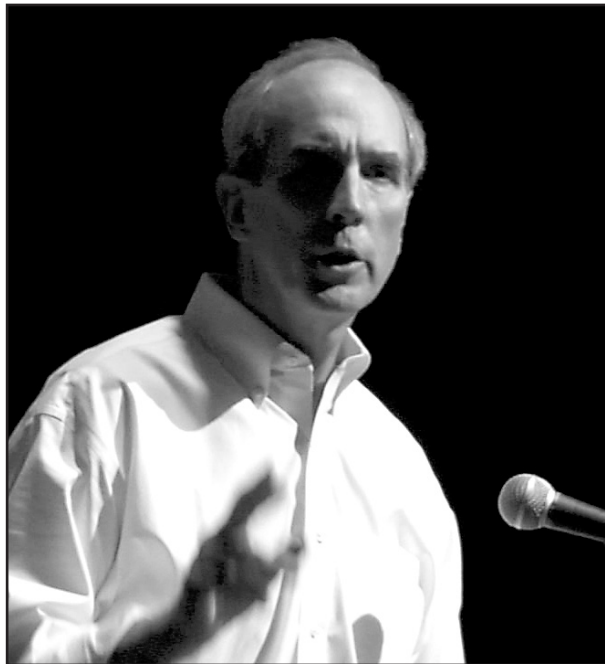
Stimpson said it's important to look at if annexation is economically beneficial for the city first, but Mobile should take care of the people in the city limits first.

James then asked if Stimpson would go to district town hall meetings if elected.

"It's very important for the mayor to go to district meetings with the councilman or woman," he said. "It's important to hear the people's concerns first hand. If the issue comes through someone else, then you can't feel the emotion of the person's request."

"It's important what they said is not filtered."

Next, the issue of priorities for city funds was discussed when Trice asked Stimpson what he would place first if



Photos courtesy of [sandyformayor.com](http://sandyformayor.com)

elected.

Stimpson said public safety is the number one issue no matter what. He also stated again that he wants Mobile to be the safest and most business and family friendly city in the nation by 2020.

The next question Trice asked on behalf of Lagniappe dealt with transparency.

Transparency is something lacking in the city under the current administration, Stimpson said. If elected, the candidate said his second day in office he would call the City Councilors to the mayor's office to watch him take the door off of the hinges.

"You can operate an open door policy and still have filtered information," he said. "There are some people who can't make it to meetings to get information so I would adopt a balance scorecard that any one can access online."

The balance scorecard would have various areas and there would be a speedometer-like device that would show where the city should be and where it is.

There were several questions from the panel about economic development and Stimpson reiterated he would remove the red tape for small businesses so that they can operate more easily.

In the same vein, Stimpson also outlined his plan for downtown Mobile. He said he would follow Andrés

Duany's form-based code plan for downtown Mobile.

Another aspect that could change downtown is the placement of the I-10 bridge. When Trice asked if he was for it, Stimpson joked anyone who has been stuck in the tunnel or on I-10, Bayway or the Causeway is for a new I-10 bridge.

He also said the bridge could be a focal point and attraction for Mobile.

"If you look at the new bridges being built, they become almost like a tourist attraction for the city," he said.

Stimpson also said he has met with people about the safety of having the bridge close to buildings like Christ Church Cathedral and has been told it will not affect the surrounding buildings.

A bike path on the I-10 bridge has been something many Mobilians have lobbied for and Stimpson has also placed importance on bike and jogging paths throughout Mobile.

The candidate said the reason there hasn't been bike and jogging paths coupled with street and sidewalk improvements is the city has not had a long-range plan since the 1990s.

"The last long-range plan the city had was in 1998. In 2003 there was only a draft that referenced the 1998 plan," he said. "A city needs a vision and needs to know where it wants to go."

A question submitted from a Lagniappe reader via Facebook dealt with litter along streets and sidewalks, which Stimpson said was "embarrassing" for Mobile to have trash on the side of roads.

He said a mindset needed to be changed and noted that every time he and his supporters campaign at an intersection, they clean it up together.

"If a person sees someone like the mayor picking up litter, then that will change their mindset and make them more aware," he said.

Another Lagniappe reader asked also via Facebook if he was in favor of term limits for the mayor and city council, and he said he was, saying politicians often lose sight of what they are there for if they stay too long.

Mod Mobilian's Juzan asked Stimpson if he belonged to a "racially segregated" Mardi Gras organization and if he would quit it if elected since it doesn't promote "One Mobile," which is Stimpson's campaign slogan. While he didn't directly answer her question, he elaborated on his idea of "One Mobile."

"The One Mobile slogan has to do with reaching out to everybody no matter where you live geographically, no matter what race you are or what gender you are or what age you are," he said. "To do that, we bring One Mobile together; follow a vision to be the safest and most business friendly in the city of America."

The candidate said he is the person to be mayor because he has a vision for the city and would include every person in it.

"A leader has a vision and confidence in working tougher to achieve it," he said. "A leader should understand the core value of being effective which comes from work ethic, integrity, treating everyone with respect, listening, being fair and uniting and not dividing."

There is still one more time to see Stimpson and Jones, along with fellow candidate Doris Brown, debate before the Aug. 27 election. The two candidates will both be at the League of Women Voters' debate on Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of WP Davidson High School.



# City gets another month to produce Explorer records

BY GABRIEL TYNES, Web Editor/Reporter, gabe@lagniappemobile.com

Lagniappe will have to wait at least another month before the city of Mobile provides more thorough documentation related to a public records request initially made in November 2012, Circuit Court Judge Rick Stout ruled July 30.

Stout held the case over until Aug. 30 to allow the city to reproduce any and all records related to the newspaper's request for public records related to trips taken by the Mobile Police Explorers from 2009 – 2012.

The request was expanded in January to include a 2008 trip to Denver. The MPD refused to provide lists of those who went on the trips, leading Lagniappe to sue for them. While the city has provided some records for the federally funded trips, they are incomplete or difficult to decipher without help from the department — help which has not been forthcoming. The department has still not released a list of any of the 42 attendees who flew to Denver in 2008.

The newspaper filed the requests after receiving a tip federal money was inappropriately used to pay for municipal employees or their family members to attend the trips, rather than the youth targeted by the Explorers program. Lagniappe sought to subpoena records from Springdale Travel for the 2008 Denver trip, as well as records from a Pigeon Forge, Tenn. motel in regards to a 2009 ski trip there but Stout temporarily quashed the subpoenas in a July 19 hearing after city of Mobile attorney's filed an objection.

On July 30 Stout maintained the stay on subpoenas issued to knowledgeable third parties by Lagniappe, saying he couldn't find any case law dictating whether such subpoenas are permitted under the state's Open Records Act.

"I have looked high and low to find some case talking about the use of the [Open Records Act], which is clearly a vehicle for the purpose of getting public records from public officials, and using it as a vehicle to get records from non-parties," he said. "I can find no case of any kind that suggested you can use this as a vehicle, which has limited scope and purpose, to produce records from non-parties."

The judge was attempting to clarify his order from a previ-

ous hearing in which he asked the newspaper to perform more evidentiary discovery in the case. With the city unwilling or unable to produce documents it was legally obligated to maintain, Lagniappe attorney Ginger Poynter issued subpoenas to both Springdale Travel and the hotel in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., hoping to discover the names of people who attended trips in 2008 and 2009.

Meanwhile, city attorney Larry Wettermark, making his first court appearance in the case, attacked both the newspaper's legal strategy and reporting on the requests. Wettermark said Police Chief Micheal Williams' affidavit claiming the department had turned over all records was truthful because it responded to the two trips at the center of the court case, rather than the comprehensive list Lagniappe has sought outside of court and has independently and partially compiled with the assistance of confidential sources within the police department.

"There is a contention being made that we haven't produced everything that is relevant to the complaint and that [Lagniappe] has come into possession of other documents that have been produced so the subpoenas are warranted," Wettermark argued. "This sets the precedent that if someone files an open records complaint, it gives them free license to use it as some sort of investigative tool. There could be an abuse of process where, because they've now come into possession of new documents, that may be used as a reason to issue subpoenas like this."

While passing the buck of departmental record-keeping to previous police chiefs Sam Cochran and Phillip Garrett, Wettermark suggested whoever is providing records to Lagniappe outside of the city's official channels is "trying to cast [Williams] in a false light." He also contended that some details of the records previously reported by Lagniappe were erroneous, including some of the names of municipal employees whose trips may have been paid for with the federal grants.

"We frankly have a mess on our hands," Wettermark said. "My problem is we can't tell who produced these documents to Lagniappe so I don't know when those documents got there, who sent them, how long they've been there and can't tell whether they've been blended with other documents or manipulated. This


program has existed for some time although Chief Williams is taking the brunt of the criticism. The problem with what's going on is the power of the press can be very beneficial but it can also hurt people. In this case what's happened is there have already been some terrible mischaracterizations."

Several offers from the newspaper to the police department to explain the relationships of individuals named in the records over the past several months have been ignored. Following Tuesday's hearing, Lagniappe co-publisher Rob Holbert sent a statement to Wettermark defending the reporting and offering the city an opportunity to help clear up any issues of possible errors.

"I can assure you our intentions have been and always are to be accurate, unfortunately MPD's steadfast refusal to help in this matter since we first asked about it has complicated things beyond what is normal in the news gathering process," Holbert wrote. "That's the danger when public officials refuse to speak with the media. Obviously we would never be in court to begin with if MPD had simply supplied these public records as required by law. The chief never offered any legal reason for doing so, pushing us to the point where we are discussing subpoenas and which records are where in the building before his affidavit or not... We can only deal with what is sent to us when it is sent to us and explain to our readers that the city continues to work through legal channels to keep us from seeing who went on certain trips. Courtroom issues aside, that remains the basic issue — MPD sent people on trips and has been unwilling or unable to provide complete records for them."

Wettermark said in the two days leading up to the hearing, the police department both requested and received related documents from the finance department's archives and in the next 30 days, would "resurvey and reproduce every document relevant to the original request in 2012" and ask for a summary judgment to dismiss this case.

On May 30 of this year, Lagniappe reporter Katie Nichols requested any documents related to the 2011 Gatlinburg ski trip from the city Finance Department but was told there were none. Wettermark did not say which trip the documents being held in archives related to.

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# Former Infirmary doc targeted previous employer with False Claims Act

BY GABRIEL TYNES, Web Editor/Reporter, gabe@lagniappemobile.com

The cardiologist who recently blew the whistle on an alleged \$521 million fraud at a subsidiary of Infirmary Health Systems was also a plaintiff in a previous lawsuit filed under the False Claims Act, according to records. But it appears Dr. Christian Heesch abandoned the effort after the federal government indicated it would not join the case and threatened to prematurely unseal the complaint because the plaintiffs were not meeting deadlines to provide information.

Instead Heesch moved to dismiss the case and later joined at least one other cardiologist in a separate lawsuit against Verde Valley Medical Center (VVMC) and its related organizations in northern Arizona, claiming violations of federal and state antitrust statutes, defamation and injurious falsehood.

According to the complaint in the antitrust lawsuit, Heesch was hired in late 2001 by a Dr. Nitin Patel, the operator of Cardiac Care, P.C., to gain clinical privileges at VVMC in Cottonwood, Ariz., so Patel could refer patients locally, rather than send them 100 miles down the road to Phoenix. But less than three weeks after receiving temporary privileges to provide cardiac catheterizations at VVMC, Heesch's privileges were revoked by the hospital's president while its executive committee recommended his permanent application be denied, according to court records.

In professional complaints against Heesch upheld through a nine-month, independent appeals process, a review committee determined Heesch had performed medical services outside his approved scope of privileges, had demonstrated "disruptive behavior" with hospital staff and had also failed to disclose in his application that "his ability to practice at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the VA Hospital was restricted."

Still, VVMC offered Heesch a path to clinical privileges, but only if he would sign a consent agreement that acknowledged the infractions, subjected him to rigorous professional scrutiny, entered him into counseling for interpersonal skills and required him to write a letter to staff admitting that he had made "untrue" and "demeaning" statements and that he "exercised poor judgment in making these statements." Heesch declined and in December 2002 the VVMC board officially denied his clinical privileges.

The next year, he accepted a position at Diagnostic Physicians Group in Mobile, but it wasn't until February 2005 that Heesch filed a complaint under the False Claims Act alleging VVMC engaged "in a scheme to defraud the Government...through a series of distinct but interrelated actions" including the "arbitrary referral

and privilege stands to minimize competition, the provision of medically unreasonable and unnecessary services, the unbundling of interventional radiological procedures, and the provision of a higher level of medical treatment and services than warranted by the patient condition."

The False Claims Act (FCA) lays the groundwork for the government to recover funds from any person who "knowingly submits a false claim to the government or causes another to submit a false claim to the government or knowingly makes a false record or statement to get a false claim paid by the government." Under the act's qui tam provision, private persons who file suit for violations of the FCA on behalf of the government are eligible to receive between 15 percent and 30 percent of any recovered funds.

Lawsuits filed under qui tam provisions of the FCA remain under seal for 60 days at the discretion of the government, which independently reviews the complaints and has an option to extend the seal while determining whether to take over the civil action. The original plaintiffs, known as relators, may be expected to assist the government with its initial investigation.

In the Arizona case, records indicate the government was contemplating an intervention, but was hampered by the "relators' delay in providing critical information and/or documents." In the interim, Heesch and Patel filed the separate suit against VVMC under the antitrust acts and shortly thereafter filed a motion to both dismiss the FCA lawsuit and keep it under seal.

In response, the Justice Department argued the relators did not follow FCA protocol in notifying the government about their intent to dismiss and noted there are few provisions, which can keep a FCA complaint under permanent seal. In June 2006, with the government showing no indication it would intervene, a judge granted the dismissal but also lifted the seal.

Meanwhile the antitrust lawsuit remained, with a core complaint VVMC engaged "in a variety of anticompetitive tactics in a scheme to illegally eliminate all competition for inpatient and outpatient cardiology facilities in the market, and to illegally boycott cardiologists who do not exclusively utilize Defendants' cardiology facilities."

That case languished in court until 2009, when an amicable settlement was reached both dismissing the antitrust claims against the medical center and restoring the professional reputation of Dr. Heesch. In January 2011, Heesch filed the sweeping FCA complaint against Infirmary Health System's Diagnostic Physicians

Group, which the government unsealed last month after deciding to intervene.

Portions of the statement of facts from Heesch's 2005 False Claims Act lawsuit in Arizona read almost identically to those filed against his employer in Mobile six years later. Both complaints suggest Heesch's fellow physicians were rewarding each other with illegal kickbacks for exclusive referrals, thereby defrauding Medicare and other federal healthcare programs.

While the local complaint identifies the total false claims amount by Diagnostic Physicians Group as \$521,600,599, the FCA provides for punitive damages three times that amount, plus penalties of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for each claim falsified. A settlement could result in softer penalties, but in successful FCA cases in which the government intervenes, the relator is awarded between 25 percent and 30 percent.

In a statement, Infirmary Health Systems CEO Mark Nix said the allegations were "unfounded" and said the lawsuit would be "vigorously defended."

"We have been working with the government for over a year to respond to their questions and are very disappointed to see them now intervening in this claim, which we view as without merit," Nix said. "We believe the [DPG] Clinic has provided services and compensated its physicians in full accordance with the law and that the Clinic acted in the best clinical interest of our patients."

Christ Coumanis, Heesch's attorney in the case against Diagnostic Physicians Group, said Heesch's previous lawsuit naming defendants in Arizona is "not in any way related" to his lawsuit in Mobile.

"The best way to put it is, say someone is involved in car accident where they are struck from behind and injured so they file a personal injury lawsuit," he said. "Ten or 15 years later, they are on the operating table and a surgeon might be operating on the same body part, but they cause a separate injury so they sue for malpractice. It's not the same thing. That plaintiff can't be fairly characterized as litigious."

In accordance with the FCA, the court can restrict Heesch's participation in the case against Diagnostic Physicians Group, which would also limit or obstruct the defendants' ability to file counterclaims against their former employee, including any evidence regarding his previous claims against medical facilities in Arizona or elsewhere. Diagnostic Physicians Group has been given until Aug. 8 to respond to the complaint in court.

## Panthers will prowl Murphy's reopened campus this fall

BY GREENBERRY TAYLOR, Contributing Writer

This year, back to school has a whole different meaning for Murphy High School students.

It was Christmas Day 2012 and Savannah St. Clair was at home with her family in West Mobile. She knew it was bad weather out but didn't know just how severe it was. She didn't know a tornado was tearing through Midtown --destroying homes, churches and the place she had come to know so well over the past four years - her high school.

"I didn't find out until the next day, through social media and my parents," St. Clair said, who was a senior at the time. "My heart dropped to the bottom of my stomach. I became very upset. And, I cried."

Savannah never went inside her school again.

When the spring semester began, St. Clair woke up 30 minutes earlier than she was accustomed to and made the drive to Murphy. There she waited in line with fellow students for a bus that shuttled them to Clark-Shaw Magnet School. This is where the 2013 graduating class of Murphy completed their high school education.

"It was rough," she said. "Transportation was the worst part. We couldn't drive. Even the people who lived in the area had to get a sticker to prove their residency because students from Murphy were initially trying to park all over the area."

William Smith, Murphy's principal, said the transportation of students did present the most challenges, but commended both the

students and his staff for their efforts and cooperation.

"The move was one of the most amazing things I have witnessed," Smith said. "My teachers and staff worked on both school sites to direct traffic and load busses. The teachers, bus drivers and police officers really went the extra mile. I am very proud of our students as well. They were true examples of what we call Panther Pride."

Many of the seniors initially thought they would be moving back to Carlen Street to end the year, but Smith had to break the news that it was not possible. He said they accepted it and found ways to make Clark Shaw home. However, some seniors, like St. Clair, would never truly call it home. How could they, when so much of their Panther Pride had been fostered in a place now buried underneath the aftermath of a tornado?

Some of Savannah's favorite memories took place on the softball practice field, located on Murphy's campus. She and her teammates, with the help of some parents, had dug up the field and replaced the dirt a few years earlier. But it was destroyed during the storm. The school band had a lot of their instruments destroyed and the track was left in bad shape along with the auditorium.

Everyone was affected in some way.

"We reminded them (class of 2013) that they would always be special for having to endure this setback," Smith said. "The class of 2013 graduated with style. We had the best graduation that I

have been involved with at Murphy."

Looking back on the experience of losing her school, Savannah acknowledges some good did come from the tragedy.

"As upsetting as it was, I think in some ways it was a blessing in disguise," St. Clair sincerely said. "There were things that needed work and some redoing. The incoming freshman and returning students will have things we didn't. They should take pride in the new additions."

Caroline Raley will be a senior this year and could not be more excited to get back.

"I think it will be kind of crazy when it starts," Raley said. "I know the auditorium might not be ready, and I heard the pep rallies are going to be on the football field if that's the case. But, I'm really excited to be back in my own school."

"I am sure students and staff will be emotional," Smith said. "The band and football team have been on campus this summer. There is a buzz that you can feel when you see a football workout or hear the band playing. It is very exciting. We are looking forward to being home."

For all of the returning students and the newbies, Savannah St. Clair, the former Murphy senior and now freshman at The University of Alabama, has left you with a few words:

"Appreciate everything about this place. Seniors, appreciate it more. I never did. I took it for granted. You never know what can happen."

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# Forensic Audit puts one on suspension

BY KATIE NICHOLS, News Editor, [katie@lagniappemobile.com](mailto:katie@lagniappemobile.com)

A forensic audit report for a Mobile County water authority is in and at least one employee is facing repercussions from the results. However, the full audit has not been made public yet.

The Mobile County Water, Sewer & Fire Protection Authority agreed in April to have a forensic audit done at the request of Mobile County Commissioner Jerry Carl. The newly elected commissioner took over the job of appointing the five-member board when he defeated former commissioner Mike Dean in 2012. Since his victory, he has replaced two board members appointed by Dean when their term expired.

The MCWSFPA first heard from Carl about a forensic audit on March 22 when he explained why he wanted the audit.

“This water system has a problem with bad press. That’s why I’m asking you, the board, to consider a forensic audit, which is different from a regular audit,” he said. “With a forensic audit, you give them your information and let the auditors back into them and put the numbers together. Every time I pull up the Lagniappe I’m hoping not to see a story about (MCWSFPA). This is something you can do to help get credibility back.”

DV Consulting, which is owned by Virginia Shanahan and Darryl Wilson, conducted the audit. However, due to a confidentiality clause, the company could not give the audit to Lagniappe upon request.

MCWSFPA attorney Jay Ross said the board told him not to discuss the report with anyone citing “attorney-client

privilege,” but he did confirm at least one person suffered consequences because of something found during the audit.

“Sylvia Hutto (MCWSFPA office manager) was placed on suspension by the board,” Ross said in an interview. “It was due to something found in the forensic audit report. That’s all I can say at this time though.”

Lagniappe was sent a portion of a page from the forensic audit by an anonymous source. A person familiar with the document also confirmed it to be part of the report.

In this portion of the report, it outlines the difficulty DV Consulting had with obtaining information and claims that one board member attempted to thwart attempts for Shanahan or Wilson to do their job.

The report states a MCWSFPA employee told Wilson and Shanahan he overheard Hutto tell Joe Summersgill, MCWSFPA general manager that board member Preston Smith state no one was to cooperate with DVC during the investigation.

According to the portion of the report sent to Lagniappe, when Wilson asked Hutto if she told any of the employees this, she said she did tell “Four or five” people. When asked the names of those she told, the report states Hutto mentioned three people. Then she said, “I mean I wasn’t shy about saying it so anyone within ear shot would have heard me because it pissed me off. How were y’all supposed to do what y’all were supposed to do if we’re keeping secrets?”

Hutto said Summersgill came into her office on June 17 and told her Smith said no one is to cooperate with the

auditors during the investigation.

Lagniappe started reporting on the water system after then-Commissioner Mike Dean asked for a lobbying job for the authority in late July 2012. Since then, Lagniappe has written on the possible violations of the Open Meeting Act by the board, the authority paying for pricey meals for the board, a company backhoe sitting abandoned near a school’s playground for more than five years and most recently the stopping of board, employees and volunteer firefighters receiving discounted water for less than \$21 per month — a violation of ethics laws.

Hutto was also involved in another MCWSFPA snafu when one of the water company’s backhoes sat on Nan Gray Elementary School property not far from the playground for five years. It was removed shortly after Lagniappe questioned about it in August 2012.

Hutto’s name came up again in the discussion when it was discovered she was listed as the vice president of Nan Gray’s PTO.

The backhoe was reportedly used for non-MCWSFPA work on the school’s property. When it broke down, the water company said the costs to repair exceeded the actual value of the 1995 Ford 555d backhoe. No one at MCWSFPA would comment why the backhoe, which was rusted with large amounts of vegetation around it, and even a sign reading “Teacher Parking Only” lying across its blade, wasn’t moved for five years from the elementary school.

Lagniappe has officially requested a full copy of the au-



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**Friday, August 23**  
Mob Towne Revival, Swing with Jon Miller Band, Keith Glass; One Step Ahead Dance, Skit Comedy by Mobile Mystery Dinners; Featured Athlete Janeer Johnson from Williamson HS with the WHS Cheerleaders, the Mystics of Time Mardi Gras Association.  
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# No one takes blame for crude oil pipeline

BY ROB HOLBERT, Managing Editor, rholbert@lagniappemobile.com

I suppose the main question about the new oil pipelines that are soon to be part of the subterranean veins criss-crossing our little stretch of Heaven is whether this is really how things are supposed to happen?

Are citizens, public officials and media really supposed to find out about new pipelines moving petroleum through our waterways at the point when they are almost a done deal? And then when the oil-soaked cat's out of the bag is this game really rigged so everyone who did know the score can simply shrug, point and say "not my job?"

Because that's what it looks like.

If you've been living under a piece of shale and don't know what I'm talking about, then Plains Southcap's Gulf Coast Pipeline must not be cutting through your yard. But this 45-mile pipeline is designed to cut through your drinking water so it's worth a little of your attention. At least until college football starts.

What we're looking at is a pipeline carrying Canadian petroleum products from Eight Mile all the way to the Chevron refinery in Pascagoula, "The City of Seven Smells." (It's OK, I lived over there and I can name each of the smells. Cat food was one when I was growing up. Moist cat food.)

While proponents will argue we need the oil and energy availability, and the project will provide jobs and cost about \$50 million to complete, almost no one seems excited by the fact the builders decided to route this line right through the watershed of Big Creek Lake. BCL is where all of Mobile's sparkling clean, oil-free tapwater comes from, if you didn't know.

Along with this big pipeline, there is another smaller line that may pump tar sands oil under the Mobile River to ARC terminals on its eastern bank. Tar sands is a particularly nasty, thick petroleum product that has proven harder to clean up than Anthony Weiner's reputation. Oh and we're also going to see an increase in the number of large storage tanks on the river.

So we're going to be pumping some oil around the area. And maybe that would be just fine if we had ever gotten much of a chance to decide as a community whether the rewards of these fine projects are worth the risks. For instance, we've been told the pipeline will create 100 jobs. Yawn. So would a Red Lobster and that comes with Lobsterfest, which is delicious and unlikely to pollute our drinking water in some hideous drawn butter spill.

But the real issue to me is how we just found out about this thing in early July and it is well underway already. Surely someone thought such a project might be of interest to the general public? Actually the way things were handled seems like Southcap and some of the permitting agencies involved may well have considered what public input on the project might be and have

done all they could to keep a bunch of water-drinking tree huggers from ruining their pipeline.

It all worked out rather conveniently that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Alabama Department of Environmental Management provided permitting for the line running through wetlands, while the state Public Service Commission gave it the OK based solely upon whether it furthered industrial growth in the area and Mobile County simply granted right of way. Individually no one takes the blame for the pipeline. Together, though, they allowed this company to come in and run an oil-filled pipe through our drinking water.

So why wasn't more known about this? Why weren't there press releases from the company and government agencies touting the economic development? After all, just about everyone puts out a press release crowing about economic development that brings 10 or more jobs to the area. But the only media coverage anyone knows about concerning this pipeline is four tiny ads purchased in the Press-Register's legals section warning of a public hearing before the PSC in Montgomery in November 2011.

Surprisingly no one showed up and the PSC rubber stamped the project on the grounds it was "in furtherance of industrial development." A PSC spokesman told our reporter that really is the only criteria they consider when permitting, which makes me really, really hope they're not about to consider permitting a power plant that burns old tires and Walmart bags but employs 100 people.

Surely that can't be the way things are supposed to work. How can Twinkle Cavanaugh and the rest of the PSC board honestly think no one would care? Why wasn't anyone there curious enough to make a few calls down here to see if people knew about this and really weren't concerned? Same for ADEM and the Corps of Engineers. And certainly the people at the county who knew what was happening might have mentioned it. At least it seems like that's how it should have happened.

So now we're stuck with a pipeline that's well underway, being installed by a company that was given the right of eminent domain in order to get the land they need. That's right, this private company can take your land if you get in their way. (Cue Lee Greenwood singing "God Bless the U.S.A." Wait a minute, he's Canadian too! Keep your filthy oil Lee!)

And the powers that be are left trying to cajole Southcap and Chevron into scooting the pipeline around some so it won't go through our water, something we're not even sure can happen. The same thing is happening over in The Landmass known as Mississippi too, where people are now alarmed at how many of their local waterways are traversed by this oil pipe.

Proponents of the pipeline say there's already been a line running through Big Creek Lake, handled by the same company, for 50 years and it hasn't caused a problem. So what? This isn't 50 years ago and sensibilities are different. Good government should require that the people were informed about these projects, even if it meant having to deal with outraged environmentalists.

You would think if the project had merit it could survive the scrutiny.

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## The Gadfly



**The pipeline that makes the most sense**

# Zingers, missteps and some odd oddsmaking

BY ASHLEY TOLAND-TRICE, Editor, ashleytoland@lagniappemobile.com

The countdown is on. In a few weeks we will stand in long lines in middle school gyms, community centers and churches, so we can take a blue or black pen and fill in an oval next to the name of the person we want to lead Mobile into the future. For the most part, the race between incumbent mayor, Sam Jones, and challengers Sandy Stimpson and Doris Brown, has been pretty tame and civil so far.

But there have been some moments in the campaign that have gotten a little nasty or even a bit goofy, somewhat satiating political junkies who crave such zingalicious goof. Let's review...

## All I wanna do is zing a zing, zing, zing

Mayor Sam Jones has definitely out-zingered his opponent Sandy Stimpson in the debates, delivering such classics as, "You've spent too much time on the 'Hill and need to come down to the valley," after Stimpson criticized the condition of many of the city's parks. And there was also this gem, "You said you worked for everything — you inherited everything you got! You are just over there playing when you are working," referring to Stimpson's position with his family's successful lumber business. And when asked about the mayor signing pledges not to raise taxes, Jones said, "Mr. Stimpson, you won't ever have to worry about whether you're going to have to sign that pledge because you'll never get to that point."

Lately, Stimpson has ended all of his speaking engagements by saying, if the cruise terminal is empty/if the parks are neglected/if a reporter from NYC calls us miserable, etc., then I am responsible. Not as pithy as the valley-hill line, but certainly a direct and probably ultimately just as effective an attack on Jones' massive case of we-can't-do-anything-about-this-because-it-is, which can be fatal to cities without proper treatment.

So again, it ain't exactly New York or Chicago-style venom, but for Mobile, it's a bit sassy. I really don't remember Jones being the king of zing in the 2005 election. In fact, these debates make those against Ann Bedsole, John Peavy and Bess Rich look like snoozefests.

But what I have found interesting is just how different the reactions have been to these recent debate performances

When I talk with Jones supporters, they confidently say things like, "Oh the mayor way outperformed Stimpson. He definitely won that debate." But when you talk to Stimpson supporters or even some undecideds, they were extremely turned off by the mayor's performance. "Gosh, he just came off so negative and bitter, heavy on the bitter. I thought we were too busy to be divided?"

So I guess it just depends on the lens you are viewing the debates through, but it will be fascinating to see how much or how little sass is seen in the final and only televised debate on Aug. 13.

I feel a debate-watch drinking game coming on. Every time the mayor says Airbus, take a shot. When Sandy Stimpson says public safety, take another. And when Doris Brown says free ice cream, hell, grab some rum and make yourself a delicious Bushwacker.

## Hubby-gate

So one of the latest television ads for Mayor Sam Jones has confused many voters who thought the mayor was unmarried.

The ad begins "Sam Jones ... Navy veteran, husband, father, grandfather, church deacon, commissioner and now our mayor."

No, he didn't run to Vegas over the last few weeks and get hitched in a drive-thru ceremony officiated by Elvis, he was just married once many years ago and is now divorced. The Jones camp says the ad is just listing all of the "roles" he has had in his life and says it is "factual."

Factual it may be, but it is also a bit misleading. Every one of us knows someone who is divorced, and have any of those people ever still referred to themselves as a "husband" or a "wife?" It's just kind of strange. And most people I know don't really care if the mayor is married or not, but they do care if he is trying to represent himself as something he is not. That was definitely a misstep. Why even bring it up?

## Election odds-making

Odds maker Danny Sheridan has been predicting Jones' certain reelection in the Press-Register since before our daily paper became a thrice. He has changed his odds a good bit — in 2011 he called Jones a "prohibitive favorite" but is now saying the race is a lot closer than he expected. He still says Jones will be the victor, and he'll even put money on it.

But he really put the "odd" in odds-making when he made a veiled swipe at two of the seven Mobile City Council members while making his latest P-R prediction.

Last week, he told the P-R the mayor's only negative was his relationship with the council.

"The only negative people see is two council members who are out of touch with reality," Sheridan said, declining to identify the members by name (that sounds familiar). "One suffers from megalomania, a form of mental illness."

Um, OK, Mr. Sheridan, or should I say Dr. Sheridan? I know you may be able to nail the over-under on the Bama-Va Tech game in a few weeks (Roll Tide!), but I was unaware you were also a psychiatrist and could diagnose mental illness.

I actually did check his credentials on his official website to see if he listed any formal medical training, but I didn't find anything indicating such.

I did see this line though...

"Danny Sheridan is the best sports analysis and sports handicapper in the world today."

Hmmmm. Did someone say something about megalomania?

Perhaps we can find out the identity of these two council members, especially the mentally ill one, along with the identity of Cam Newton's bagman. Wonder what the odds are on that.

No matter who you are for, it is always exciting to see our democracy at work. Right now, according to our USA poll and of course, the great Dr. Sheridan, it is a very tight race. Will the last debate seal the deal for one of the candidates? Will there be a mid-August surprise? I don't know, but odds are it's going to an interesting race to the finish line. You can bet on that.



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BY JENNIFER MCDONALD, Columnist, [betterdivorce@aol.com](mailto:betterdivorce@aol.com)

Modern technology certainly has its drawbacks, and if not for my active Internet addiction I'd probably never have to witness so much obsessing about royal babies and what sort of diaper they'll use for depositing their royal droppings. Nor would I have likely have ever become vaguely familiar with the Kardashians, who I initially thought sounded like a hostile alien race whose spandex-clad leader might have seduced Captain Kirk or unleashed some strange virus onto the Enterprise in a "Star Trek" episode I somehow missed.

There are a few aspects of modern life I could do without, but in general, most technological advancements pretty much blow my mind, in a good way. Lately I've become fascinated with these nifty new 3-D printers I keep hearing about. They're sort of like the old ink printers most of us had a decade ago, in that they're large and noisy contraptions that take up half your desk, except instead of printing out pictures of Spiderman for your son to color or fun signs reminding your hubby not to forget his lunch again, they actually make...stuff.

Basically, the printers are able to build three-dimensional objects by adding successive layers of material on top of each other according to a digital blueprint. You put in a solid material (usually plastic), which is melted in the printer's heating core and then pushed through a hole in the printing nozzle to create each tiny layer according to the specifications of your design. The printers can be used to make all sorts of neat stuff including shoes, guitars, toys designed to look exactly like a child's drawings, and apparently even functioning guns and other weapons. Yee-ha!

These contraptions have actually been around for a while but in recent years they've become sleeker and easier to use, have greater capabilities, and have dropped in price to the point where they're not entirely cost-prohibitive. Just a few years ago many

cost as much as a new car, but there are currently models on the market that are edging closer to the price of a good laptop.

Many experts predict that in the very foreseeable future most of us will have one handy around the house so that when we need a new cell phone case, bike pedal, shower curtain ring or polka-dotted toy T-Rex wearing a crown and a cape, all we have to do is hit a few buttons. With new design templates available on the Internet every day, there's no telling what sort of stuff we'll be manufacturing in our own homes in the next decade.

Experts predict the printers will not only become accessible enough for the average consumer to figure out how to use, but they'll also save us tons of money by allowing us to obtain finished goods at the cost of materials (after the initial investment for the device itself, of course).

Crazy, huh? If you're still trying to get used to smartphones, you'd better hold onto your custom-designed 3-D printed hats and get ready because things are allegedly about to get wild! Need new frames for your glasses? A festive hair barrette to match your new dress? A replacement knob for your washing machine? Click, click, done.

The medical world has also found use for 3-D printers and they have even been credited with saving lives. Last year, doctors at the University of Michigan made headlines for saving the life of an Ohio baby when they "printed" a small tube they used to help the child breathe.

The 2-month-old baby suffered from a rare birth defect which caused the walls of his tiny airway to be so thin they collapse to the point where his heart was stopping on a daily basis. His doctors were in a race against time to save his young life, and they couldn't afford to wait long enough to use techniques already in practice for patients with dysfunctional airways, such as transplanting the windpipe of a deceased donor or creating a replacement in a lab using stem cells.

The innovative docs performed a detailed CT scan of the baby's airway, which they used to design an exact blueprint of the small device needed to support the airway. The splint, which was created in one day using plastic particles and a 3-D printer, was made from bioresorbable plastics which will dissolve in three years, giving him enough time to outgrow the condition. The child, who was initially not expected to survive the condition, has been off a respirator and home with his family for more than a year.

That's all pretty cool, I think, but here's where it gets really interesting. The next step for 3-D printers just might involve home-cooked gourmet meals at the touch of a button. Currently several developers are working on plans to create printers that will follow complex recipes and spit out a finished meal prepared to technical perfection after you pour in the base ingredients. It might take some of the heart (and joy) out of cooking, but it sure sounds easy.

NASA is currently funding research to create a 3-D printer that will provide food which will be used by astronauts on longer missions, potentially including a voyage to Mars. Their first goal is to create a pizza made from pouring powders into various mixing tubes and letting the machine do its magic. This innovative new product will take up less storage space and provide astronauts with more variety and nutrition than the prepackaged meals they currently use.

As tubby as we are now, can you imagine the possibilities if we had these babies in every household? We wouldn't have to leave the couch for months at a time! Hungry? Click. Broken remote? Click. Couch cushion worn thin from excessive use? Click. Necrosis of the buttocks from sitting too long? New ass coming right up! I just hope I can find a decent template for a comfy and fashionable Snuggie.



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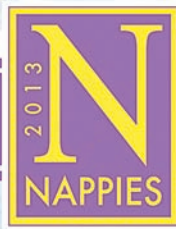


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## Maximizing the potential of the Gulf Coast's Beaches

BY JEFF POOR, Columnist, [jeffreypoor@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreypoor@gmail.com)

It's been three years since the worst of the BP-Deepwater Horizon oil spill hit the Gulf Coast and wounded the region's tourism industry all the way from Apalachicola, Fla. to Texas-Louisiana state line.

Some claimed the Gulf Coast would never be the same, as people would have the perception of coastline permanently contaminated by oil. With the exception of the time immediately following the spill, the fallout wasn't as bad as it was hyped and the Gulf Coast ultimately came back stronger than ever.

Alabama's beaches were no exception to that comeback. Gulf Shores and Orange Beach had record lodging tax revenues, surpassing \$300 million in 2012. Any given weekend, Alabama Highway 59 between Foley and the Intracoastal Waterway Bridge headed into Gulf Shores resembles a parking lot.

But those beaches and other beach hotspots along the Gulf Coast are still not living up to their full potential.

The beaches along the Alabama and Florida Gulf Coast hold a strategic advantage in that they are more accessible by automobile than most of Florida's better-known beaches along its eastern coast, including St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Miami's South Beach. It's the first spot where map turns blue, if you're coming from the Deep South or the Midwest. Trekking further down I-75 or I-95 can add another couple of days to a family's vacation.

Where those places have an advantage, however, over the Gulf Coast is that in some ways they have a better suited amenities and infrastructure for visitors.

For starters, based on data from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the average round-trip domestic plane ticket fare to any of the Redneck Riviera's four major airports – Mobile (\$544.34), Pensacola (\$446.75), Valparaiso (Fort Walton Beach) (\$509.09) or Panama City (\$420.27) – is significantly higher than Florida's more glamorous spots – Miami (\$387.49), Fort Lauderdale (\$285.26) and West Palm Beach (\$388.66).

Understandably, there are population and inventory reasons for that competitive advantage. But if it is cheaper for a prospective beachgoer to fly from a major U.S. metropolitan area like New York City, Philadelphia or Washington, D.C. to Miami or Fort Lauderdale, why would they choose the Alabama or Florida Gulf Coast?

Another glaring inadequacy for the Gulf Coast is the lack of commercial lodging options for visitors.

Jimmy Buffett was really on to something when he got involved in the development of the site of the former Holiday Inn in Pensacola Beach, which had been destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Under the "Margaritaville" brand, it was transformed into a 162-room, \$50-million beachside resort.

During peak tourist season, a Gulf-front room somewhere as modest as a Hampton Inn chain in some Gulf Coast localities can run

in excess of \$300 a night. While that creates the opportunity for a decent profit margin for the hotel operators, it could be a deterrent for potential visitors.

Aside from the plethora of rat-hole motels built as a place for spring breakers and recent high school graduates to cram into in and around Panama City Beach, the whole supply-and-demand equation doesn't bode well for the visitor at any of the coastal destinations.

To his credit, Gov. Robert Bentley has been proactive on this front. Back in May he signed Senate Bill 231, investing \$85.5 million of BP settlement money into the Gulf State Park, \$58 million of which will be put toward a lodge and meeting facility. Ideally that upgrade will inspire more investment on that front, especially from private commercial interests. The condominium boom of the last 10-15 years along the Gulf Coast and a shorter tourist season has perhaps made it a less lucrative investment.

As long as four or five days' worth of lodging can cost in excess of \$1,000 in an economy that appears to be going nowhere fast, the Gulf Coast will continue to find it's a competitive disadvantage on that front.

Finally, for those that do make the trip by car to the Gulf Coast, once you make your way off of I-65 and head for Baldwin County or the Florida panhandle, you're having to put a lot of stock in Alabama and Florida panhandle back roads. Nothing says "world-class amenities" like being stuck behind a tractor on a two-lane road outside of Atmore, Ala.

For years and years, there have been pleas for improvements here, not only for the sake of tourism but for public safety-hurricane evacuation purposes as well. Finishing the neglected Foley Beach Expressway to I-10 and beyond to Bay Minette and I-65 has at least been mentioned as a priority by some of the hopefuls for the seat Rep. Jo Bonner vacated last week.

Accessibility is something that should have been considered long before this discussion. A look at the road map shows only two four-lane highways connecting mainland Alabama to the Gulf Coast beaches in Florida over the entire 150-mile span of the 31st parallel that constitutes the border of Alabama-Florida border. Making the flight from a hurricane bearing down on the Gulf Coast to safety has been struggle for those residing on the coast for years and years.

The region will continue to reap the rewards of its beaches for years to come. No doubt, this will be another record year for south Baldwin County as well. But making the sell to come to the Alabama Gulf Coast usually begins, "Alabama has a beach?" Then upon further investigation, it turns out it will cost double what it would for a few days at some run-of-the-mill brand-name hotel in south Florida, making the economics an undeniable obstacle for maximizing the coast's full potential.

# Reducing some girth at the fantastically fresh Zoes Kitchen

BY ANDY MACDONALD, Cuisine Editor, fatmansqueeze@comcast.net

**A**ugust is here and pre-season football starts this weekend. If I'm going to get into swimsuit shape by summer of 2014 I guess I should start dieting now. Lord knows I missed it this year. The trouble with weight loss and healthy living is that it is usually (1) not delicious and (2) relatively expensive.

You can't just stir a little milled flax seed into your chocolate malt and call it a day. There are reasons why a salad costs more than a hamburger. It wasn't always this way. Nowadays if you want to eat healthier and live longer you have to pay a little extra, and a little more than extra if you don't want to sacrifice flavor. So it was with great delight that in my quest for a less generous silhouette my beautiful wife suggested we go to Zoes Kitchen.

We've all heard about the health benefits of a Mediterranean diet, and Zoes does not disappoint in this category. Yes, it is a chain. No, it is not a gyro shop. Let's just say they are in the ballpark of a Mediterranean style café, ingredient wise. Lots of feta, orzo, tabouli, and hummus can be found on the menu along with sandwiches, wraps, salads and kabobs.

It is totally casual, order at the counter and they bring it out to you. It almost has a fast food feel until you taste the freshness. **Hummus and pita (\$4.79)** came to the table immediately. They make it on premises and it shows. Our plate donned a couple of olives and a sprinkling of what might have been paprika.

**Veggie pita pizza (\$8.29)** was the order of my bride. Loaded with spinach, this flatbread pie was not only tasty but filling. It came with a rather large Greek side salad that came home for tomorrow's lunch along with half of the pizza.

I couldn't stay away from the **shrimp kabobs (\$9.99)**. On a bed of rice pilaf next to another Greek side salad, these char-broiled sticks alternated between shrimp and zucchini. Served with a side of cucumber raita, I couldn't decide whether to put the sauce on the kabob or the salad. The raita was much like tzatziki sauce without the dill. The version at my table was a little chunkier and went well with all of it, but I didn't want to overshadow the flavor of the shrimp. The zucchini were masterfully cut to the proper size so that they were cooked perfectly and evenly with the shrimp. Good job.

Everything was so good that we came back the next night just to make sure these guys really had kung-fu. The evening began with **tomato bisque (\$3.99/bowl)**. Little pockets of feta appeared about every third spoonful. This was a real solid soup.

Missy wanted another pizza, but I convinced her no one wanted to read about the same thing twice. She bought it and ordered the **spinach rollups (\$7.49)**. These could best be described as Greek burritos. Tortillas are stuffed with mozzarella, feta, mushrooms and sun-dried tomatoes. A side of smooth salsa comes with the dish as well as a side of mayo-free slaw that was excellent.

I broke through the vegetarian motif with a **Grueben (\$8.99)**. You might call it a Turkey Reuben. The bird replaces the corned beef, the slaw I just mentioned replaces the sauerkraut, but the Swiss cheese and rye bread remain the same. The turkey was thinly sliced, but plentiful. It was a very good sandwich, but I admit I missed the shrimp kabobs. Tonight's meal came with a side of potato salad, mayo-free, that I have no idea how they did it. It wasn't dry, it wasn't weird. But it was good.

It sounds as if I spent a couple of evenings being a good boy, now doesn't it? Not so fast. Zoes certainly allows a little bit of sinning in those walls. Let's start with what they call **Yaya's handmade**

**chocolate cake (\$2.19)**. It's chocolate on chocolate, and it is delicious. Do not miss this one. Next we had to try a giant **house baked cookie (\$1.99)**. We chose the chocolate chip over the oatmeal, and the size of the chips mirrored the size of the cookie. It compared to a slice of pizza, maybe larger. The cookie was soft and chewy with just the right amount of crumbs. Though these two desserts were split between me and Missy and Graham, we all had to loosen our belts a notch.

The real sin for me was the pint of made-from-scratch **pimiento cheese (\$8.99)**. Zoes has no preservatives, just simple ingredients that include a dash or two of Tabasco. The heat is



Photos courtesy of Zoes Kitchen

**Zoes Kitchen in Legacy Village can help you get ready for bikini season without skipping flavor.**

certainly an afterthought, but it's nice to have it. This tub won't last long in my fridge.

I have to say I was pleasantly surprised with this find. I wouldn't necessarily call it a vegetarian restaurant, but the menu is nicely laid out with markings for vegan and vegetarian making it simpler if that's what you are looking for. The main ingredient is freshness. That could easily be their catchphrase. Corny as it may sound, that is what separates them from the herd. It's healthy, it's delicious, and it's relatively cheap. A few nights like this each week and maybe I'll be ready for that bikini by spring break.

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## CUISINE WORD OF MOUTH

### New local IPA and food truck

BY ANDY MACDONALD, Cuisine Editor, fatmansqueeze@comcast.net

#### Chasing Fresh has new market on horizon

When we first told you about Chase Corte he was just a boy with a dream. Now his farm-to-table delivery service Chasing Fresh has exploded onto the food scene. It has been decided that one delivery day per week is not enough to fulfill the needs of his loyal fans, so a second "pick-up date" has been added. Where is the pickup site, you ask? In the new Chasing Fresh Market!

As of now the market is open only on Fridays from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. for pickup orders, but it should be opening daily soon. The street address is 19176 Highway 181, Fairhope. You will find it is just north of County Road 44.

Everything is business as usual, so place your Facebook orders by Tuesday for your regular Wednesday delivery or new Friday pickup, or call (251) 550-9600 for more information.

#### Mudbugs gets into new digs

Mobile's favorite seafood market has moved into its new location across the parking lot at the corner of Dauphin Island Parkway and Government. Things are looking good for Mudbugs, and we finally have a nice place to sit with our overstuffed po-boys and snow cones.

Go for lunch and grab a redfish on the way out. They will clean it for you, but don't be shy about asking for the backbone. That's where the real flavor is.

#### Lap's getting its "sea legs"

As with any new restaurant it takes a few weeks to iron out the bugs. Lap's on the Causeway seems to be doing just that. They are still packed to the gills and riding that initial high as our bayfront's latest newcomer, and getting closer to being a well-oiled machine.

I stopped in the seafood market this week and grabbed a couple of tremendous snapper fillets for the grill, and I must say I was not disappointed. Snapper the size of four pregnant watermelons. Service was fast and friendly. The restaurant was jumping and no one seemed to be waiting for anything. I think this is turning into the powerhouse it was designed to be. Grocery, bait shop, restaurant, seafood market, live music, Causeway, what's not to like?

#### Fairhope Brewing introduces new IPA

Persistence is the key for our buddies over at Fairhope Brewing Company. Wading through miles of red tape is paying great dividends. Our local beer makers have product on tap covering downtown from the Bike Shop to the Royal Scam as well as all over Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

Not ones to rest on their laurels, their latest creation that caught my eye and had my

taste buds yearning is their new (Take The) Causeway IPA. I do love a good IPA on occasion, and can't wait to try it. Fans of the Paint it Black IPA need not worry. The Causeway is the seasonal, so come and get it at the Tap Room before summer ends. Paint it Black will always be waiting for you.

For a complete list of what is on tap over at 914 Nichols Avenue visit [www.fairhopebrewing.com](http://www.fairhopebrewing.com) or check for regular updates for events and live music on Facebook.

#### Bayou La Batre gets nod from Travel Channel's Zimmern

Since our last contact Travel Channel's "Bizarre Foods America: Third Coast Episode" spread the word about a couple of places in our area. The Top Five show began with host Andrew Zimmern hog hunting at Hurricane Landing, saying how impressed he was with the flavor of the wild hog and how he was equally impressed with the down to earth people. The trick to that wild hog is trapping them, then pulling the trigger after they've calmed down. It seems the show was teaching him right.

I've got a guy that brings them to me and we soak them in ice water for three days before marinating. The result is delicious.

Zimmern's fourth favorite event was eating duck at John Besh's La Provence Restaurant in Lacombe, La., followed by shooting and eating nutria in the Canary Islands. Second place was bow fishing at night for stingray.

But the number one favorite Gulf Coast moment for Andrew Zimmern was, according to him, "Not even close." A home cooked dinner in Bayou La Batre at the residence of a Vietnamese family won in a landslide. He had trouble pronouncing Batre but was quick to say the fishing community was close knit and welcoming. Zimmern urged people to take in what south Alabama has to offer. I second that emotion, and appreciate him acting as ambassador to basic cable viewers.

#### Geaux Boy gearing up food truck

The latest news in Mobile's growing food truck scene has me in overdrive. Geaux Boy is expected to be up and running later this month and promises the best in New Orleans style po-boys. If you read this column with any regularity you should know that I am a fan of such an idea and am pleased to announce that our culinary superhero/sandwich vigilante is planning on a Ferdie Special type of interpretation! Slap the Swiss on it and you have Mobile's Ralph!

Meats will be smoked in-house (how he can do that in a truck is beyond me, but I don't question Geaux Boy) for that special touch. Plans are for the lunch crowd and weekend late night drunk service. Be sure to follow him on Facebook and Twitter. Who is this Geaux Boy? When will he reveal himself?

Tune in next issue. Recycle.

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# Staycation Survival Kit

BY SUSAN LARSSON, Contributing Writer, [thirstywork@outlook.com](mailto:thirstywork@outlook.com)

**A**ugust. Alabama. Shouldn't we all be someplace else? "Staycations" are a hot trend — possibly too hot for Mobile. We may say we like the heat, but I'm thinking we really don't.

Actually, I'm not thinking. My brain has officially shut down and left town, like most of the French government. My survival instincts have kicked in; I'm minimizing activity and keeping well hydrated. Beer, wine and cocktails that require no effort — not even the mental kind — are on the agenda.

When you can't hit the road to beat the heat, you can at least take some hits of Sweetwater Brewing Company's summer seasonal: Road Trip. It started out as a pilsner, but ended up as an ale, with a blurb on the label explaining the (ultimately lucky) detour. The color is cloudy yellow, looking kinda like fizzy pineapple juice with a frothy head. It has fruity, citrusy flavors (possibly from the Golding hops) that are dry and slightly bitter. I'd call it a light-bodied American Pale Ale, if anyone asked.

Road Trip travels well with grilled burgers, or just a big bowl of popcorn. Heat advisory: Use caution drinking Road Trip with sharp, spicy foods; its bitterness can rev up the heat. (5.2 percent ABV; available at better package stores.)

If your go-to summer wine is Pinot Grigio, I've got a better idea: Leese-Fitch's California Sauvignon Blanc. The first thing you notice about this wine is its way-cool cap-cork combo closure — it's like a Champagne cork you can stick back in the bottle. Or maybe it's more like a Scotch-bottle stopper. Either way, it gives your brain a break on two fronts — no corkscrew to find and no cap to lose.

The wine is fresh and uncomplicated, almost colorless, with faint floral aromas, some clove and bell pepper. Flavors include ripe lemon, honeydew melon, white peach and grapefruit, with a long, dry finish. The taste is actually a happy surprise after the light fragrance and color. This Sauvignon Blanc is extremely drinkable by itself, or with grilled seafood. It may not be a "serious" wine but I liked it a lot and it's seriously good value. (2012; 13.5 percent ABV; \$11 at Lap's Grocery on the Causeway.)

Looking for an easy pizza wine? Rufino's 2011 Chianti (their basic Chianti, not the Classico Riserva) hits the mark. It's a young wine, with a deep ruby color and red-fruit aromas. The predominant flavors are red fruits, like cranberry, with some white pepper. It's light-bodied and acidic — ideal for washing down melty mozzarella. This is not a "great" wine, but it's a perfectly decent wine for any night when you want something simple and good. And cheap! (13 percent ABV; \$8; available at grocery stores and on line.)

The summer heat brought blueberries, and now that you're tired of pies, jam and muffins, you can re-purpose those berries as a Blue Gin Fizz. In the bottom of a champagne flute, muddle (a fancy word for mash) 3-5 blueberries. Add two ounces of gin (Beef-eater works fine; keep it in the fridge for best

results), and stir. Top-up the glass with chilled Prosecco or Cava (not Champagne). Granted, you'll have to make bucketfuls to use up the two gallons of berries you picked, but everyone needs a challenge.

The Pimm's Cup is a different kind of fruit-based cocktail. Like the gin-and-tonic, it's a concoction brought to us by our friends the Brits. (It's basically British Sangria — which may sound slightly scary, but the drink truly isn't.) The Pimm's Cup is the cocktail of choice at Wimbledon and letting summer go by without one would be like skipping a Julep at the Derby.

To make a Pimm's Cup, you start with Pimm's Number 1 (a gin-based liqueur with light spice and fruit flavors, sold at most ABC stores). From there the recipe — both ingredients and proportions — varies widely so (here's the good news) there's no need to measure or worry.

Basically, you pour the Pimm's liqueur into a pitcher and stop when it looks like enough; add club soda, 7-Up or ginger ale, depending on the degree of sweetness you're going for, and then add freshly chopped apples, cucumbers and oranges, and fresh mint. (OK, you really want roughly a 3-to-1 ratio between the soda and the Pimm's, but this is not carved in stone.) Mix well, pour into tumblers of ice and sip. Some people love it, some people hate it, but at least you can say you've tried it.

Now, if you really are stuck at work, reading Lagniappe on the sly, you need a VIP (Vacation-in-Place) moment. So I've got a little game for you, and only you need know you're playing. Look at your co-workers (be subtle; don't stare) and then read my list of real-life wine descriptions (lovingly plagiarized from glossy wine publications that I pay money to read).

See how many matches you can make between your colleagues and the wine-speak. We'll start with easy ones: "A bit past its prime." "Fruity and lively." "Rich, but lacks depth." "Full-bodied and supple." "No discernible backbone." "Should be left several years to mature." (Have you recognized Liz in accounting? Or maybe Mike, the owner's son?)

Try some more, you've got time: "Assertive and forward." "A slightly off-putting nose." "Earthy, with a whiff of barnyard." "Somewhat unbalanced." "Complex and mysterious." "Unapproachable, for now." "Young, but shows promise." "Light and sneaky." "A bit tight." "Will keep for years." The parallels are amazing, once you start noticing (and you can play this game almost anywhere, actually).

Don't forget the (Abita) Top of the Hops Beer Fest at the Wharf, Orange Beach, Aug. 10! It'll be stupid-hot, so enjoy the beer but drink water, too. When my brain gets back from vacation, maybe I'll plan a Thirsty Work Groundhog Day Beer Festival. All the fun, without all the sweat. Cheers!!



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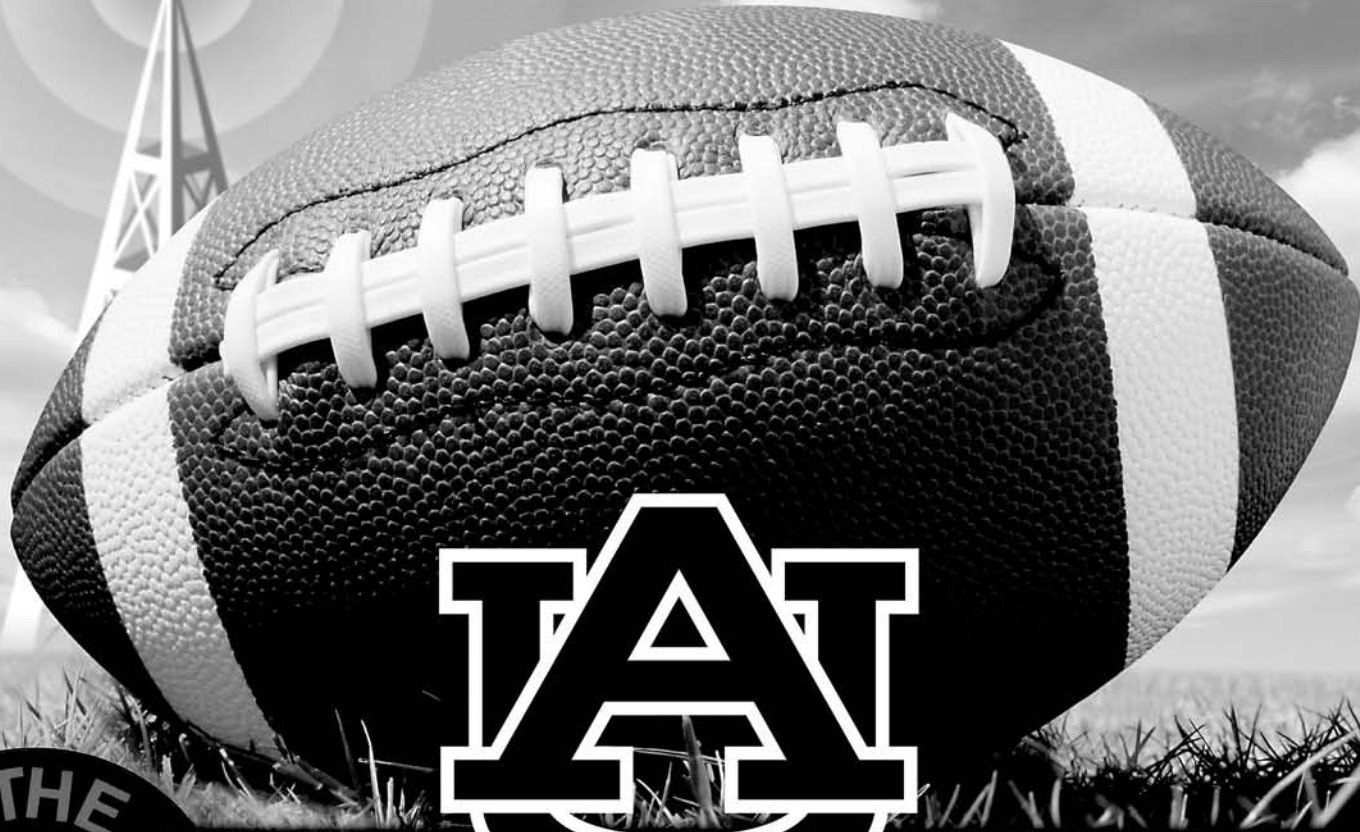
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**2013 Auburn Football Schedule**

Date	Game	Location
Aug. 31	vs. Washington State <sup>TV</sup>	Auburn, AL.
Sept. 7	vs. Arkansas State <sup>TV</sup>	Auburn, AL.
Sept. 14	vs. Mississippi State <sup>*TV</sup>	Auburn, AL.
Sept. 21	at LSU*	Baton Rouge, LA.
Oct. 5	vs. Ole Miss*	Auburn, AL.
Oct. 12	vs. Western Carolina (HC)	Auburn, AL.
Oct. 19	at Texas A&M*	College Station, TX.
Oct. 26	vs. Florida Atlantic	Auburn, AL.
Nov. 2	at Arkansas*	Fayetteville, AR.
Nov. 9	at Tennessee*	Knoxville, TN.
Nov. 16	vs. Georgia*	Auburn, AL.
Nov. 30	vs. Alabama*	Auburn, AL.

**Schedule Key**  Home Event  Away Event \*Conference Event

# CUISINE Directory

**The Bull**  
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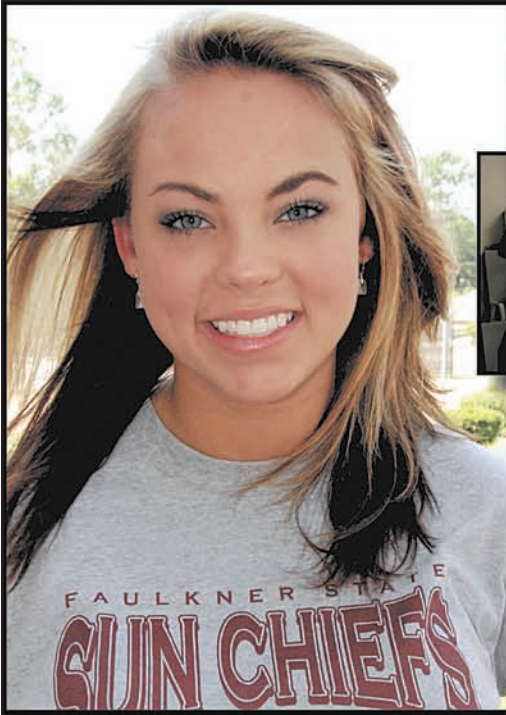
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# Long empty building to become apartments

BY RON SIVAK, Columnist, ron@elminfo.com

**V**allas Realty, Inc. recently sold a property on 951 Government St. The eight story, 75,000-square-foot building is located on the corner of Government and Marine Streets. The out-of-state developer paid \$275,000 and plans to convert the building into residential apartment units.

John M. Delchamps, Associate Broker for Merrill P. Thomas Company Inc., recently leased the Sawyer Furniture Store at 3767 Airport Blvd. to Spirit Halloween for short-term seasonal use.

Local investors recently purchased a 10,000-square-foot office building located at 3315 Demotropolis Road with plans for tenant renovation. Joey Betbeze with Betbeze Realty negotiated the transaction.

The same investors also purchased a vacant lot next to the building, which will be used to increase parking space. Joey Betbeze represented the purchaser and Paul Carter with The Paul Carter Agency represented the seller.

Marl M. Cummings IV of Cummings & Associates leased the former Jags Grill location at Old Shell and University to Momma Goldberg's Deli. The space is 3210-square-foot with plans for an opening in October. Cameron Weavil of the Weavil Company represented the tenant.

Marl M. Cummings IV also represented the buyers of the property at 2 N. Florida Street. It is a 4,000-square-foot office building located at the northeast corner of Dauphin and Florida Streets. There are also 2,600-square-foot and 1,400-square-foot office suites available for lease. Pratt Thomas represented the seller.

In a recent update, Provence Real Estate was selected to manage the five apartment communities in Mobile purchased for \$98 million by Colony Hills Capital of Wilbraham, MA. The communities total 2,013 units and include: Cabana Apartments, Sandpiper Townhomes, Yester Oaks Apartments, Windsor Place Apartments, and The Pathways Apartments. Provence assumed management effective May 20th, 2013, and is also planning to open a local regional office soon as part of the takeover.

## International Chamber coming to Mobile

The ASSOCHAM Ladies League (ALL) of Alabama will soon join other chapters around the world with the objective of connecting women across boundaries and borders internationally.

The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry for India (ASSOCHAM) is the leading entity of its kind in India and was established in 1920. Currently the organization has 4.4 million

members and is headquartered in New Delhi.

The organization was designed to connect women around the world into a global business network that supports initiatives of assistance for women in the realms of education, entrepreneurship, leadership, the arts, safety, cinema, public policy and technology.

Mobile native Darlene Moore — an actress, screenwriter and film producer — has been appointed chapter chairperson for the Alabama Ladies League (ALL). Dr. Harbeen Arora, Ph.D., is the Global Chairperson of the ASSOCHAM and is a noted screenwriter, film producer and author of "Creative Living: Discovering Happiness and Well Being."

Prominent ASSOCHAM members include Paris-based designer Ritu Beri and Indian entrepreneur Kiran Mazumadar Shaw. Shaw was ranked 80th among the world's most powerful women by Forbes Magazine

ALL of Alabama is one of 25 satellite chapters located around the world. Locations in North America include: New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Vancouver and Ottawa.

The ALL of Alabama plans an outreach soon to Georgia, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi for involvement in a variety of programs and events. Locally, the ALL of Alabama chapter is hosting their official launch event Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013, at the Mobile Marriott. The theme is "United to Serve, Educate and Assist Women around the World."

One of the major speakers will be Tonie Ann Torrains, Executive Director of Penelope House.

"When I was first contacted by Darlene about supporting ASSOCHAM and ALL in Mobile, I noticed parallels between their goals for supporting women and the mission statement of the Penelope House. I am honored to be keynote speaker at their kickoff event," Torrains said.

For more information on ASSOCHAM or the Penelope House, visit their websites at:

[www.assochem.org](http://www.assochem.org) and [www.penelopehouse.org](http://www.penelopehouse.org)

## BP Claims Update

According to Attorney C. Bennett Long with Long & Waite, BP has recently enacted an advertising campaign that attempts to position itself as a victim of alleged fraud in the class action settlement that it drafted and agreed to honor. "Business owners and individuals should not be intimidated by BP's recent propaganda campaign.

There is nothing wrong or fraudulent about making a claim if there's proper documentation meeting the correct specifications," Long said.

Per Long, BP employed some of the best attorneys in the world to assist in drafting the nearly 1,200-page settlement agreement. The terms and conditions were advocated as being fair and reasonable to all.

"The resulting class action settlement agreement represents one of the most sophisticated contracts in American jurisprudence and likely all of mankind," Long said.

According to Long, three years after the oil spill and nearly a year and a half after agreeing to the settlement, BP is crying foul and attempting to invalidate it. "It just doesn't make any common or legal sense and is disheartening," Long said.

Currently, the Deepwater Horizon Claims Facility is set to accept applications through early April 2014. However, it is possible that the actual cutoff date could occur much sooner depending on the outcome of certain hearings relating to class certification.

## Ingalls Shipbuilding Names 11th LPD

Ingalls Shipbuilding authenticated the keel of the company's 11th amphibious transport dock ship, Portland (LPD 27). Named in honor of Oregon's most populated city, it is currently about seven percent complete.

The ship is scheduled to launch in early 2016 and is scheduled to be delivered to the U.S. Navy in late 2017. Somerset (LPD 25) is currently preparing for builder's sea trials and

John P. Murtha (LPD 26) is currently 50 percent complete and will launch next year.

Ingalls Shipbuilding is building the entire LPD 17 San Antonio Class of ships, the newest addition to the Navy's 21st century amphibious assault force. To date, eight ships have been delivered to the Navy. The 684-foot-long, 105-foot-wide vessels are used to transport and land Marines, their equipment and supplies ashore. The ships will continue to support amphibious assault, special operations, or expeditionary warfare and humanitarian missions throughout the first half of the 21st century.

In addition to more than 10,000 Ingalls shipbuilders, there are 650 suppliers from 38 states which support the LPD 17 program. Ingalls spends roughly \$175 million a year with this vital industrial base.

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## USA/Lagniappe poll finds Mobile mayoral race neck and neck

As of Aug. 2, the showdown for Mobile's mayoral seat was close ... extremely close.

Lagniappe and the USA Polling Group sponsored a poll, which was conducted by Dr. Thomas Shaw with the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice between July 22 and Aug. 4.

The results, which in 95 of 100 cases will be accurate with a plus or minus 4.7 percent margin of error, show incumbent Sam Jones and challenger Sandy Stimpson are in a dead heat, each having 47 percent of the vote. There are still 6 percent of people who are undecided and Dr. Doris Brown has less than 1 percent of the likely votes.

One of the other interesting results is that the poll results are primarily split by race. Jones is expected to have 84 percent of the African-American votes while Stimpson is expected to

receive only 7 percent. Likewise Stimpson has 82 percent of the likely white votes and Jones has 14 percent.

Also, in seven key issues — Airbus, city's crime rate, cruise ship, public openness, city's finances, quality of life and stormwater runoff — the poll suggested Mobilians felt Jones would handle five of the seven issues better than the other candidates. The poll seemed to indicate Stimpson would handle the city's finances and crime rate better than Jones.

Shaw explained the methodology for the poll.

"A random sample of 441 likely registered voters from throughout the city of Mobile were interviewed by landline telephone and cellular telephone," he said in an email. "In addition to sampling error, there are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias.

"Reported percentages may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

"Results for subgroups have the potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population.

"The data have been weighted to account for known population characteristics related to age, race, gender, and geography."

Stimpson said they are only focused on Aug. 27.

"The only poll that matters is Election Day, which is why we are working hard everyday to meet as many voters as possible - we want to earn their vote," Stimpson said.

Calls to the Jones campaign for reactions were not returned before press time.

You can view the full study, including methodology and demographic breakdowns on answers to each of the questions, at [classic.lagniappemobile.com](http://classic.lagniappemobile.com).

# LAGNIAPPE



### 2013 Mayoral Election

"Suppose the election for mayor was being held today and the candidates were ... Dr. Doris J.W. Brown ... Sam Jones ... and Sandy Stimpson. Which would you vote for?"

		Dr. Doris Brown	Sam Jones	Sandy Stimpson	Don't Know	Count
Likely Voters		<1%	47%	47%	6%	417
Age of Respondent	18 to 29		58%	34%	8%	87
	30 to 44		52%	46%	2%	98
	45 to 54		45%	49%	6%	67*
	55 to 64	1%	42%	51%	6%	84
	65 and over		37%	58%	6%	71*
Race	African-American		84%	7%	9%	178
	White	1%	14%	82%	4%	192
	Other		36%	64%		11*
Sex	Female		52%	41%	7%	221
	Male	1%	41%	54%	4%	196

\* Note: Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup because of the potential for larger variation.

### Issue Perceptions Summary

Issue	Dr. Doris Brown	Sam Jones	Sandy Stimpson	None	Don't Know	Count
Airbus	<1%	44%	40%	2%	14%	435
City's Crime Rate	<1%	36%	40%	3%	21%	433
Cruise Ship	<1%	40%	37%	6%	18%	434
Public Openness	1%	44%	39%	2%	13%	437
City's Finances	2%	36%	43%	2%	18%	434
Quality of Life	2%	42%	37%	1%	18%	436
Stormwater Runoff	1%	40%	39%	1%	19%	436

### Right Direction

"Would you agree or disagree with the following statement: The City of Mobile is heading in the right direction."

		Agree	Neither	Disagree	Don't Know	Count
Likely Voters		62%	4%	33%	2%	437
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	60%	5%	34%		96
	30 to 44	63%	1%	34%	2%	100
	45 to 54	72%	3%	25%		67*
	55 to 64	60%	5%	36%		87
	65 and over	57%	4%	31%	8%	77
Race	African-American	87%	1%	11%	2%	192
	White	40%	6%	52%	2%	200
	Other	67%	8%	25%		12*
Sex	Female	66%	3%	29%	2%	236
	Male	57%	4%	37%	2%	202

\* Note: Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup because of the potential for larger variation.

# IMPORTANT MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATES

**Aug. 13** — Final mayoral debate. Incumbent Sam Jones and challengers Sandy Stimpson and Doris Brown will face off for the last time at a debate hosted by the League of Women Voters at 6:30 p.m. at Davidson High School. The event will be televised on WKRG.

**Aug. 16** — Last day to register to vote before the municipal election. This day marks the last for city of Mobile residents wanting to vote in the upcoming election but who need to register. Late voter registration takes place at the Mobile County Board of Registrars, 304 Government St., and the forms are located on the department's website ([www.mobilecountyal.gov/government/voting.html](http://www.mobilecountyal.gov/government/voting.html)). To find out if you are a registered voter, go to [myinfo.alabamavotes.gov](http://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov).

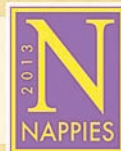
**Aug. 22** — Last day for voters to apply for a regular absentee ballot and Old Dauphin Way Association District 2 City Council Candidate Forum. The absentee election office for the city of Mobile municipal election, which is located on the first floor of Government Plaza at 205 Government St., will be open until 4:30 p.m. A person may vote absentee if he/she will not be able to vote at the polls on election day and is a current registered voter of the city of Mobile. Valid identification must be presented at the time of voting. Call the Absentee Election Office for more information at 251-208-7469. ODWA will hold a District 2 City Council Candidate Forum at 7 p.m. in the St. Mary's School gymnasium on Old Shell Road. To submit questions for the candidates, email [dauphinstreet@gmail.com](mailto:dauphinstreet@gmail.com).

**Aug. 26** — Last day for a voter to apply for an emergency absentee ballot if he or she is required by his or her employer to be out of the country on election day. This can be done at the absentee election office for the city of Mobile municipal election.

**Aug. 27** — Election day. To find an election center, go to [www.cityofmobile.org/election/votingcenters.php](http://www.cityofmobile.org/election/votingcenters.php) and enter the correct home address. The polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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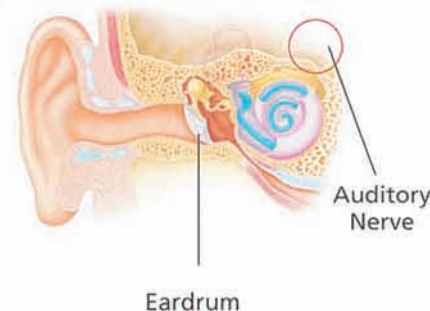


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## Going, going, gone

BY KEVIN LEE, Arts Editor, klee@lagniappemobile.com

Lunatic & Co. owner Courtney Matthews was flustered, frustrated and flushed in the summer heat so the tears she fought just mixed in with the sweat. The little shop at the intersection of Springhill Avenue and Dauphin Street has been a cornerstone of creative esprit d' corps for the last couple of years but is now facing hard times.

In light of a calamitous ledger sheet, Matthews has closed the doors for a week or so to regroup. She's mounted an uphill climb for the part-gallery/part-shop that has been a linchpin in attempts to build community downtown.

"I'll sell a painting or a book every now and then but I make so little from it in order to help the artists out," she said. She's hosted free events for the neighborhood, movie nights and trunk sales and other things to bring people together but it hasn't weighed out in the end.

Though it's no salve for Matthews' wounds, she's hardly alone. Look no further than the last issue of Lagniappe for evidence.

When the Nappie Award for favorite gallery was handed out, the first place winner was Robertson Gallery followed by Host Gallery, same as last year. Sadly, Host Gallery closed its doors a year ago – not long after the 2012 Nappie Awards – and Robertson Gallery is following suit. That's right, the August LoDa Artwalk is Robertson Gallery's last day in the spot at the corner of Hamilton and Dauphin.

Brad Robertson is moving to a new spot in the Oakleigh Garden District, closer to his house and only a couple of blocks from Callaghan's. The former site of Cox Drug Store is nearly half the size of his current location, but it has advantages.

"It was a matter of leasing as opposed to owning," Robertson said. There's also a terrible pitfall that has been a top problem downtown for decades: lack of foot traffic.

"I had two people walk in here all of last week," Robertson said. "One was looking for Wintzell's and the other was the Kentwood water man."

Robertson who sits on the Mobile Arts Council board is no shrinking violet. He invested time and energy into downtown four years ago and though he personally makes money through commissioned works, the overall economic health isn't good.

"To stay here would have been a matter of pride," he said, "but we just barely break even during Artwalk." It's not for lack of exposure on those nights, as his floor is well trod.

Yet during business hours, downtown sidewalks remain lonely stretches of concrete outside a few scant blocks close to Royal Street. None of

us should be shocked to hear this as this major impediment to downtown revitalization has been notably cited by every one of the high-priced studies we pay for every few years to tell what we already know.

A lot of us talk a grand game about downtown and supporting local business. That started with great verve two decades ago and has only grown since but when the cash register tallies up the actions behind the words, it comes up dreadfully short.

"Talk is appreciated but only actual monetary support will help us survive long enough and longevity is the only way to encourage more potential local entrepreneurs to feel confident they will survive," Matthews said.

Matthews has well over 1,000 "friends" of her shop's Facebook page. She explained that if each one of them merely spent \$10 a month in the shop, she would have no problem keeping the lights on and the doors open. But as it is, all they have are well wishes and then they go on their way without another thought to it.

A couple of years ago, while on a workgroup for downtown "hospitality zones," Artifice watched and listened as the Downtown Business Alliance's Elizabeth Sanders and Carol Hunter spoke with obvious frustration about Mobilians' aversion to downtown. Many years of banging their heads on those walls were vexing and painful.

I'm not surprised as abundant complacency has been easy to spot in the Azalea City over the last three decades. Everyone seems to be constantly awaiting some economic cavalry's charge over the hill to save everyone without citizens actually having to do anything too strenuous. Tenn-Tom, homeport, convention center, cruise terminal, ThyssenKrupp, Airbus, it doesn't matter; we're too busy with football scores and church gossip to get off our apathetic duffs and seize control of our own fate.

For a town so filled with a conservatism built around an ideal of rugged individualism, there's an awful lot of reliance on someone else to seize our bootstraps and do all the tugging. Maybe what we're essentially conserving is the energy that could be put into caring about anything beyond the end of our fingertips.

Then again, maybe I should expect as much from a metropolitan area where folks who live less than a 15-minute drive from downtown proudly distinguish themselves as not being "Mobilians."

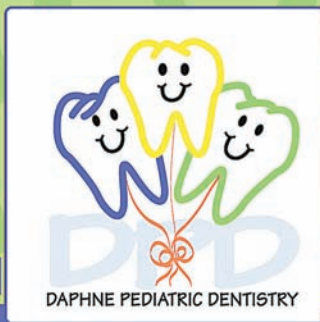
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**A R T S G A L L E R Y**

**Helen Keller show at USA**

BY KEVIN LEE, Arts Editor, klee@lagniappemobile.com

**Helen Keller Art Show**  
**Where: University of South Alabama, Library, First Floor Gallery**  
**When: Through Sept. 30**



Photo courtesy of southalabama.edu  
 "Ocean Tree" Rachel Hyche



Photo courtesy of southalabama.edu  
 "Ladybug Brail" Kristopher Patterson

**C**reated by Alabama children of all ages with sensory impairments, these winning entries have an emphasis on creativity, color and tactile media. Select pieces travel the nation and are exhibited in federal halls in addition to becoming a permanent part of a collection at Ivy Green in Tuscumbia, Keller's birthplace.

Support for the contest is provided through the UAB Vision Science Research Center-Outreach Education Module, the UAB School of Optometry, the UAB School of Education, the Helen Keller Birthplace Foundation and the Alabama Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children Helen Keller Chapter of the Division on Visual Impairments.

Library entrance is free. For complete hours, go to [www.southalabama.edu/univlib/info/hours.html](http://www.southalabama.edu/univlib/info/hours.html).



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Photo courtesy of southalabama.edu  
 "Glass piece" Rene Culler



Photo courtesy of southalabama.edu  
 "The Ocean" Jacob Simon

**Poet Fowlkes reads work at Mule**

BY KEVIN LEE, Arts Editor, klee@lagniappemobile.com

**Vernon Fowlkes reading and booksigning**  
**Where: The Blind Mule (57 N. Claiborne St.)**  
**When: Aug. 17, 3:30 p.m.**

**N**ative Mobilian Vernon Fowlkes has crafted a notable collection of work that bears an unmistakably Southern voice and lyricism. South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth said his collection "The Sound of Falling" is "a wise and beautiful collection...brimming with images and sounds of the sea and rain as if the words were washed up on shore or found one morning after a storm."

His poems have appeared in print across the nation, in The Southern Review, Negative Capability, Elk River Review, The Texas Observer, Willow Springs, JAMA, and Birmingham Arts Journal.

Fowlkes will appear in the upstairs portion of the restaurant, with the reading beginning at 4 p.m. Fowlkes will have copies of the book available for purchase by cash, check or credit card. For more info, call 251-694-6853.



# Blonde has needs at JJP

BY KEVIN LEE, Arts Editor, klee@lagniappemobile.com

**Auditions for "Legally Blonde: The Musical"**  
**Where: St. Mary's Parish (1450 Old Shell Road)**  
**When: Aug. 11 & 12, 7 p.m.**

**W**e all know the storyline from the Reese Witherspoon hit film: ostensibly shallow gal shows there's more to her than a yen for perfect style. But our local troupe needs talent to fill the roles. The cast will include: five women, aged 30s – 60s; 25 women aged 16 – 30; four men, aged 30s – 60s and 20 men aged 16 – 30. Look at the numbers again, young fellas. If you ever needed the excuse to spend a lot of nights in the midst of a make-believe sorority, this is your chance.

Performance dates are Nov. 8 – 24. Audition requires a vocal selection of your choice and possibly some dance. Bring a list of schedule conflicts that might interfere with rehearsals.

Callbacks are Aug. 13, 7 p.m.

For more info, call 251-471-1534 or go to [www.joejeffersonplayers.com](http://www.joejeffersonplayers.com).

# Strings offer ultimate Artwalk stop

BY KEVIN LEE, Arts Editor, klee@lagniappemobile.com

**The Gonzalez Duo**  
**Where: Larkins Music Center (257 Dauphin St.)**  
**When: 7 – 8 p.m.**

**A**rtwalk can get fun but also sultry this time of year. What if you had a place to stop along the stroll and listen to stringed classical music as the afternoon cedes to the cooler evening?

The August concert features the Gonzalez Duo, Mobile Symphony Orchestra violinist Jorge Ivan Gonzalez and pianist Adonis Gonzalez. This performance of classical, jazz and blues drifts from Mozart, to the blended Baroque and Romantic style of Norwegian composer Christian Sinding before coming back home to the music of Mississippi's own William Grant Still.

The hour-long show is the perfect break to what can turn out be sticky or downright wet art crawls during the Dog Days. You might be surprised at how powerful classical music can be in an intimate setting.

MSO Summer Series concerts are free and open to the public.

For more information, call 251-432-2010.

# Dreams on display at MAC

BY KEVIN LEE, Arts Editor, klee@lagniappemobile.com

**I Have A Dream**  
**Where: Mobile Arts Council (318 Dauphin St.)**  
**When: Through Aug. 23**

**W**hen Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on Aug. 28, 1963, little did most realize the historical ramifications unfolding. What emerged was a speech that would go down with the Gettysburg Address as one of the most galvanizing and memorable in the history of the nation. Now, on the 50th anniversary of the event, some of Mobile's community leaders have depicted their interpretations and dreams for their hometown and brought them to the walls of the Mobile Arts Council's Skinny Gallery.

Also on display are a retrospective from artist John Prince and an array of models from the Mobile Miniature Club.

An opening reception will be held during the Aug. 9 LoDa Artwalk, from 6 – 9 p.m. Regular gallery hours are Mon – Fri, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more info, call 251-459-2298 or go to [www.mobilearts.org](http://www.mobilearts.org).



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BY STEVE CENTANNI, Music Editor, scentanni@lagniappemobile.com



Photo courtesy of Facebook

Birmingham's St. Paul & the Broken Bones stops by again in the Port City. The group brings more and more buzz each time.

**Band:** St. Paul & the Broken Bones  
**Date:** Sat., Aug. 10 at 7:30 p.m.  
**Venue:** Callaghan's Irish Social Club, 916 Charleston St., [www.callaghansirishsocialclub.com](http://www.callaghansirishsocialclub.com)  
**Tickets:** \$12 avail. at Callaghan's

About a year ago, vocalist Paul Janeway and Jesse Phillips entered a studio to begin a musical project. The duo began concocting a sound that was saturated in old school soul and highlighted by Janeway's powerful vocals. This sound became too big for Janeway and Phillips, and this musical project evolved into a six-piece soul powerhouse complete with a horn section. The group paired the sound with an electrifying live show that poured pure emotion over everyone in attendance, and St. Paul & the Broken Bones was born.

Since then, the group has made quite an impression on the Southeast. The buzz from both fans and critics is that St. Paul & the Broken Bones will follow the same path as The Alabama Shakes and become Alabama's next breakout band. The band is prepping for this with the upcoming release of their full-length debut, which was fittingly produced by Alabama Shakes keyboardist Ben Tanner. With that said, their upcoming performance at Callaghan's might be one of the last times to catch this charismatic band in an intimate setting. As his band prepares to take another step (possibly a huge one), Paul Janeway was gracious enough to chat with Lagniappe.

**SC:** This band has only been together for about a year. In that time, you've not only collected an impressive fan base, but you've also been taken on by some pretty impressive management (Thirty Tigers). I think they represent Jason Isbell and Shooter Jennings. What do you think it is about this group that has allowed you guys to move so fast

**PJ:** Desperation? I really don't know. I think there's something about our show. It's pretty fun, and people seem to enjoy. I don't really know, to be honest with you. I just feel fortunate to be where I am.

**SC:** When you first started out, it was just you and your bassist (Jesse Phillips) experimenting with an idea. Did you have in mind the neo-soul sound that you guys created, or was it something that just happened naturally?

**PJ:** I think it happened progressively. I only sing a certain way. The way I sing kind of creates what we do. So, it's difficult for me to do more rock-and-roll type music when I feel more matched with soul. It kind of progressed that way.

**SC:** You guys have been busy putting together your first full-length in Muscle Shoals. A lot of bands of your caliber have been jetting up to Nashville to record. What made you guys want to keep it local?

**PJ:** First, we had an opportunity with Ben Tanner to have him produce the record. We feel a kinship with Muscle Shoals and that area. We also wanted to do it to analog tape. We didn't want to do it and have a lot of digital presence. We decided that's the way that we wanted to do the album, and that's what we did. We did it all to tape and mixed to tape. We recorded at The Nutthouse and mixed it at FAME. We just felt a kinship there, and what we're doing is in that spirit. We felt that if we're going to do it justice, then we need to do as properly as we can.

**SC:** Recording everything live to tape can be a very tedious experience. If one person screws up, then everybody has to start over. Then, you have to roll the tape back and start over. Was it a tedious process for you guys?

**PJ:** Not really, we did it all live, and vocally, we did about three takes, and that was it. Before we got in that studio, we rehearsed pretty hardcore. So, when we got in there, there wasn't a lot of mistakes. It's rough around the edges, but all those old soul

records are too. When you hear "When a Man Loves a Woman," the horns are out of tune. It's funny, because there are a few things where I was like, "You know, maybe we'll try something different here." Then, we would try and fix it, and it just lost the spirit of it when we did that. Then, we would end up leaving it the way it is. I heard a quote one time, and I think it was from a bluegrass artist. He said, "Each time you record a song, it loses its soul each time that you record it." I think we felt that way with this record. We wanted to do it as naturally as it possibly could be done and capture all those little things in each song.

**SC:** You got a lot of fans itching to get this new album. What are they going to experience with this one?

**PJ:** It's definitely soulful. Each song represents itself. It's a collection of songs. It's not necessarily where we were like, "OK, this is going to be like Pink Floyd's 'The Wall' or something like that." Each song stands on its own. I feel like the album to us is a statement like, "Hey! We're here!" I go forward a lot vocally on the album, instead of falling back. I go for more. It's just more of a statement. It's a debut album, you know?

**SC:** Do you have a title and release date yet?

**PJ:** We have! It's going to be sometime in January, and the title is going to be "Half the City."

**SC:** One thing that I keep hearing from your fans and various critics is that you guys are right on the edge of exploding onto the national level. Whenever you think about how it just started with you and Jesse in the studio, what do you think about taking St. Paul & the Broken Bones to another level?

**PJ:** It's bizarre just to think that it could get crazier. It's hard to imagine, and it's very flattering. It's really crazy to think about. We try to take it in strides. Honestly, our bank accounts don't seem like they're on the next level, I can tell you that (laughing).

## LoDa and NOLA collide at Moe's BBQ

BY STEVE CENTANNI, Music Editor, scentanni@lagniappemobile.com

**Band:** The New Orleans Suspects  
**Date:** Sat., Aug. 17 at 8:30 p.m.  
**Venue:** Moe's Original BBQ, 701 Spring Hill Ave., [www.moesoriginalbbq.com](http://www.moesoriginalbbq.com)  
**Tickets:** \$15 at the door



Photo courtesy of Facebook

Crescent City sounds to fill Moe's Original BBQ in LoDa.

**M**oe's Original BBQ serves up some of the finest food in LoDa, and soon, they will be serving up some of the finest sounds from NOLA. The New Orleans Suspects will have plenty of Crescent City sounds for Moe's patrons who are hungry for more than their delicious 'cue. This group brings together some of The Crescent City's most talented musicians with drummer "Mean" Willie Green (Neville Brothers), bassist Reggie Scanlan (The Radiators), Jake Eckert (Dirty Dozen Brass Band), pianist CR Gruver (Outformation) and saxophonist Jeff Watkins (James Brown). They deliver a hybrid of jazz, funk and R&B. This can be witnessed on their self-titled debut with grooving numbers such as "36 Cars" and "Swampthang." They also have a habit of paying homage to their forefathers with songs such as "Look-Ka Py Py" (The Meters) and "Big Chief" (Professor Longhair), which can be heard on their album "Caught Live at the Maple Leaf."

## A Portal to ambient sounds

BY STEVE CENTANNI, Music Editor, scentanni@lagniappemobile.com

**Band:** Edward Appleby, Beach Weather  
**Date:** Fri., Aug. 9 at 8 p.m.  
**Venue:** Portal Studio, 560 Dauphin St., [www.portalstudiomobile.com](http://www.portalstudiomobile.com)  
**Tickets:** \$5 at the door

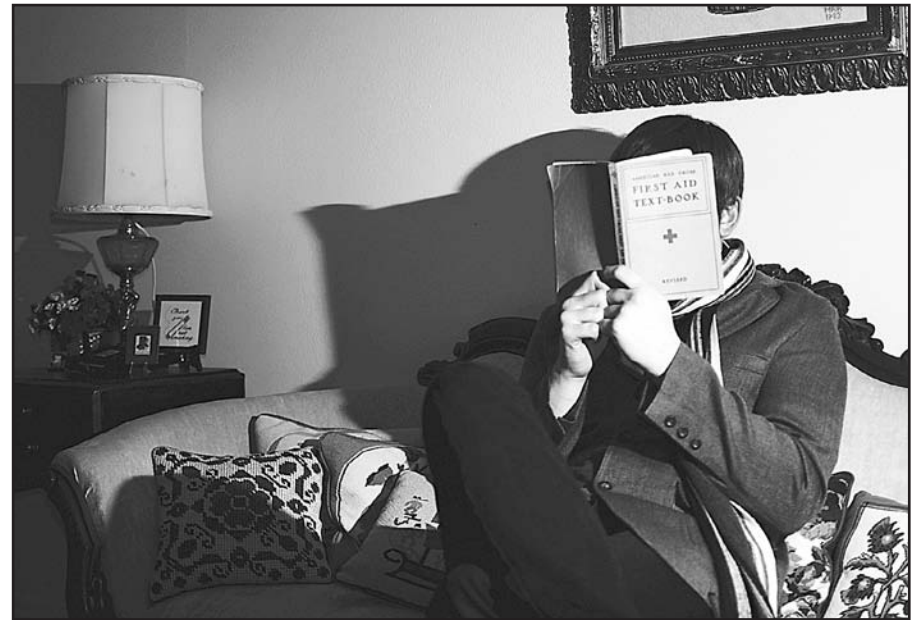


Photo courtesy of edwardapplebysmusic.com

Experiment with Portal Studio and Edward Appleby's newest effort.

**P**ortal Studio has given LoDa and eclectic infusion. This studio features work from a number of local artists, but has also become an epicenter for local musicians to experiment with sounds. It seems only natural that two of the Azalea City's most unique musical acts use Portal as a jump-off for an eight-date Gulf Coast tour. This will be an evening of sonic dreams provided by Beach Weather and Edward Appleby. "Cascadia" is the latest release from Beach Weather. Ambient sounds mingle with ethereal voices throughout each track on "Cascadia." It is not hard for listeners to succumb to the gentle nature of this album. Songs like "Ghosts" and "Small Voices" force listeners to create surreal images within their minds. Edward Appleby will continue this minimalist extravaganza. Appleby's latest effort is "Magic Kingdom, Vol. II: Liberty Square." This album is evidence of Appleby's evolution as a musician. Appleby has created a sonic canvas upon which he establishes vocals that are whispering dreams.



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# MUSIC LISTINGS AUG 8 - AUG 21

## THURSDAY AUG 8

**Bill & Charlies**—Karaoke w/ Chris  
**BlueGill**—Matt & Sherry Neese, 6pm  
**Blues Tavern**—Elmo & The Bluesmen  
**Bojangles**—Sorry For Party Rockin' Thursdays featuring DVDJ Lynch, 9pm  
**Brickyard**—Josh Ewing & Ross Newell  
**Callaghan's**—Bobby Butchka  
**Cowboys & Angels**—Karaoke w/ Mandy  
**Felix's**—Rebecca Barry Duo, 6:30pm  
**Hangout**—Grand Theft Audio, 6pm. The Perry Wall, 10pm  
**Hard Rock (Center)**—Gas Station Disco  
**Hayley's**—Karaoke  
**Joe Cain Cafe**—Ryan Balthrop, 7:30 pm  
**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Ryan Balthrop  
**Lulu's**—Guilt Ridden Troubadour, 6 pm  
**Moe's BBQ (Daphne)**—Yellow Hammer Productions, 8pm  
**Old Grill 27**—Possum Trot, 6:30pm  
**Royal Knight**—Karaoke  
**Royal Street Tavern**—John Anthony on Piano, 6:30pm  
**Tropics**—Karaoke  
**Veets**—Kenny Berry "Live with Veet", 8pm

## FRIDAY AUG 9

**Alabama Music Box**—An all Local Showcase  
**Bill & Charlies**—Shifting Tracks Band  
**BlueGill**—Brittany Grimes, 12pm. Last Call Rodeo, 6pm  
**Blues Tavern**—Big Al & The Heavy Weights  
**Bojangles**—Bojangles Unplugged featuring Matt Neese  
**Brickyard**—Britches McGee  
**Cowboys & Angels**—The Perry Wall Band  
**DeCuba**—Brett LaGrave  
**Felix's**—Blind Dog Mike  
**Grand Central**—Together Tomorrow  
**Hangout**—Mario Mena Band, 7pm. The 7th Green, 11pm  
**Hard Rock (Live)**—America  
**Hard Rock (Center)**—Gas Station Disco  
**Joe Cain Cafe**—John Anthony on Piano, 6:30pm  
**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Live Music w/ Fuego's  
**Lulu's**—Redfield, 5 pm  
**Margaritaville**—Rockafella  
**Moe's (Mobile)**—Allie Logan 6pm. Guilt Ridden Troubadour 8:30pm  
**Moe's (Daphne)**—Groovenators, 8pm  
**Old Grill 27**—Red Solo Cup, 6:30pm  
**Patches**—Harvest Band  
**Royal Street Tavern**—John Anthony on Piano, 6:30pm  
**Soul Kitchen**—Charlie Muncaster//Jake Buford//Allie Logan, 9:30p,  
**Tacky Jacks**—Brandon Self & the Outlaw Revival, 7:30pm. Banditos, 9pm  
**TP Crockmiers**—Small Zoo  
**Tropics**—Special Delivery  
**Windmill Market**—Jimmy Lee Hannaford, 11am. Kyle & Karl 6pm  
**Veets**—The Family Jewels, 9pm

## SATURDAY AUG 10

**Bill & Charlies**—Shifting Tracks Band  
**BlueGill**—Harvest Band, 6pm  
**Blues Tavern**—IBC. 10+ bands  
**Bojangles**—Saturday Nite Live featuring Chatterbox  
**Brickyard**—TBA  
**Callaghan's**—St. Paul & The Broken Bones  
**Courtyard 311**—Trigger Root, 8pm  
**Cowboys & Angels**—The Perry Wall Band  
**Felix's**—Grits N Pieces, 6:30pm  
**Grand Central**—Random Conspiracy  
**Hangout**—Guilt Ridden Troubadour, 7pm. The Jason Abel Project, 11pm  
**Hard Rock (Live)**—Kathy Griffin  
**Hard Rock (Center)**—Gas Station Disco  
**Kimberley's**—Karaoke w/ Kristin  
**Joe Cain Cafe**—Harrison McInnis, 7:30pm

**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Brett LaGrave  
**Lulu's**—Peek, 6pm  
**Margaritaville**—Steve Hall  
**Moe's BBQ (Daphne)**—Yellow Hammer Productions, 8p  
**Old Grill 27**—We Lee, 6:30pm  
**Royal Knight**—Karaoke  
**Royal Street Tavern**—John Anthony on Piano, 6:30pm  
**Soul Kitchen**—Bonerama, 9:30pm  
**Tacky Jacks**—Super Fantasy Funk, 9pm  
**TP Crockmiers**—Small Zoo  
**Tropics**—David Jernigan & Randy Landers  
**Veets**—The Family Jewels, 9pm

## SUNDAY AUG 11

**Alabama Music Box**—The Star Killers//The Underhill Family Orchestra  
**BlueGill**—Dale Drinkard Jr., 11am. Peek, 6pm  
**Blues Tavern**—Ben Prestage  
**Bojangles**—S.I.N. Night w/ Wes & Gregg Fells  
**Felix's**—Brittany Grimes  
**Hangout**—Van Etten Brothers, 6pm. Jeff Glass Band, 10pm  
**Hard Rock (Center)**—Gas Station Disco, 1-5pm  
**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Live Music w/ Fuego's, 6:30-10p  
**Lulu's**—Cool Rayz, 6pm  
**Margaritaville**—Ric McArthur  
**McSharry's**—Traditional Irish Music, 6:30pm  
**Old Grill 27**—TBA  
**Royal Knight**—Karaoke  
**Tacky Jacks**—Ryan Balthrop, 3pm  
**Tropics**—Alan Hartzell Duo  
**Windmill Market**—Roger Fleshman  
**Veets**—The Family Jewels, 8pm

## MONDAY AUG 12

**Felix's**—Bryant Gilley, 6:30pm  
**Hangout**—Wes Bayliss & Ricochet Creek, 6pm. Brooks Hubert, 10pm  
**Hayley's**—Karaoke  
**Lulu's**—Brent Burns, 6pm  
**Royal Street Tavern**—John Anthony on Piano, 6:30pm  
**Tacky Jacks**—Karaoke  
**Veets**—Juke Box, 4pm

## TUESDAY AUG 13

**BlueGill**—Andy & Chris (Peek), 6pm  
**Bojangles**—All The Single Ladies Night Karaoke with Jordan, 8pm  
**Brickyard**—Wes Bayliss  
**Butch Cassidy's**—Andy MacDonald  
**Felix's**—Brett LaGrave, 6:30pm  
**Hangout**—Cool Rays, 6pm. Trigger Root, 10pm  
**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Live Music w/ Fuego's, 6:30-10p  
**Lulu's**—CoConut Radio, 6 pm  
**Moe's BBQ (Mobile)**—Zew 2nd Tuesday -- Cornbread 7pm  
**Royal Street Tavern**—John Anthony on Piano, 6:30pm  
**Veets**—Eric Erdman

## WEDNESDAY AUG 14

**BlueGill**—Ross +1, 6pm  
**Blues Tavern**—David & Randy  
**Bojangles**—Open Mic Night with Dale Drinkard Jr., 8pm  
**Brickyard**—The Van Etten Brothers w/ Ben Leininger  
**Felix's**—Marc Kaul Duo, 12pm  
**Hangout**—Category 4, 6pm. Jeff Glass Band, 10pm  
**Joe Cain's Cafe**—Loose Cannons, 7:30pm  
**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Brent Loper  
**Lulu's**—Alvarado Road Show, 5pm  
**Tacky Jacks**—Tommy Morse Band, 7pm  
**Tropics**—Songwriter's Open Mic Night  
**Veets**—Open Mic with Grits n' Pieces, 7pm

## THURSDAY AUG 15

**Bill & Charlies**—Karaoke w/ Chris  
**BlueGill**—Eric Erdman Duo, 6pm  
**Blues Tavern**—Johnny Barbato & The Lucky Dogs  
**Bojangles**—Sorry For Party Rockin' Thursdays featuring DVDJ Lynch, 9p  
**The Brickyard**—Josh Ewing & Ross Newell  
**Callaghan's**—The Ben Jernigan Band  
**Cowboys & Angels**—Karaoke w/ Mandy  
**Felix's**—Brandon Green Duo, 12am  
**Hangout**—Mogilies, 6pm. Jay Williams Band, 10pm  
**Hayley's**—Karaoke  
**Joe Cain's Cafe**—Ryan Balthrop, 7:30pm  
**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Harrison McInnis  
**Lulu's**—Wes Loper  
**Moe's BBQ (Mobile)**—Groovenators, 8pm  
**Moe's BBQ (Daphne)**—Yellow Hammer Productions, 8p  
**Old Grill 27**—Randy Branch, 6:30pm  
**Royal Knight**—Karaoke  
**Royal Street Tavern**—John Anthony  
**Tropics**—Karaoke  
**Veets**—Lisa Zanghi "Live with Veet," 8pm

## FRIDAY AUG 16

**Bill & Charlies**—Night Work Band  
**BlueGill**—Brittany Grimes, 12pm. Cool Rays, 6pm  
**Blues Tavern**—True Blue  
**Bojangles**—Bojangles Unplugged featuring Chris Powell & Andy Cobb, 9pm  
**Brickyard**—TBA  
**Celtic Irish Pub**—  
**Cowboys & Angels**—Special Delivery Band  
**DeCuba**—Kyle and Karl, 8pm  
**Fairhope Brewing Company**—Cameron Zion, 6pm  
**Felix's**—Bayne & Grant, 6:30pm  
**Grand Central**—The Crowned J  
**Hangout**—Mario Mena Band, 7pm. Foxy Iguanas, 11pm  
**Hard Rock (Live)**—The Cult  
**Hard Rock (Center)**—DC Lane  
**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Live Music w/ Fuego's  
**Lulu's**—Lee Yankie Band  
**Margaritaville**—Steve Hall  
**Moe's BBQ (Daphne)**—Woodshed, 8pm  
**Old Grill 27**—Them Again, 6:30pm  
**Royal Street Tavern**—John Anthony on Piano, 6:30pm  
**Soul Kitchen**—The Roast of Christopher Cole, 9:30pm  
**Tacky Jacks**—Jason Able Band, 7:30pm  
**TP Crockmiers**—Meacham Motor Company  
**Tropics**—Cane Pole Soul  
**Veets**—The Family Jewels, 9pm  
**Windmill Market**—Eric Jones, 11am. Ali & Brad 6pm.

## SATURDAY AUG 17

**Alabama Music Box**—The Tontons//20,000 Leagues Under the Sea  
**Bill & Charlies**—Night Work Band  
**BlueGill**—TBA  
**Blues Tavern**—Ric McNaughton Band  
**Bojangles**—Saturday Nite Live featuring Ryan K., 9pm  
**Brickyard**—TBA  
**Callaghan's**—Julie Anne  
**Cowboys & Angels**—Night Work Band  
**Felix's**—Blind Dog Mike, 6:30pm  
**Hangout**—Whyte Caps, 7pm. Foxy Iguanas, 11pm  
**Grand Central**—3 HG  
**Hard Rock (Center)**—DC Lane  
**Kimberley's**—Karaoke w/ Kristin  
**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Live Music  
**Lulu's**—Bust, 5pm  
**Moe's BBQ (Mobile)**—The New

Orleans Suspects, 8:30pm  
**Moe's BBQ (Daphne)**—Yellow Hammer Productions, 8pm  
**Old Grill 27**—Cowboy Johnson, 6:30pm  
**Royal Knight**—Karaoke  
**Royal Street Tavern**—John Anthony on Piano, 6:30pm  
**TP Crockmiers**—Ryan Balthrop  
**Tropics**—Tommy Morse Band  
**Veets**—The Family Jewels, 9pm  
**Windmill Market**—Lisa Zanghi 11am

## SUNDAY AUG 18

**BlueGill**—Dale Drinkard Jr., 11am. Sharp, 6pm  
**Blues Tavern**—Al & Cathy  
**Bojangles**—S.I.N. Night w/ Wes & Gregg Fells  
**Felix's**—Bobby Butchka  
**Hangout**—Van Etten Brothers, 6pm. Jeff Glass Band, 10pm  
**Hard Rock (Center)**—DC Lane, 1-5pm  
**Lulu's**—Alvarado Road Show, 5pm  
**Margaritaville**—Marc Kaul  
**McSharry's**—Traditional Irish Music, 6:30pm  
**Old Grill 27**—Lisa Zanghi, 6:30pm  
**Tacky Jacks**—Sarah Percy, 3pm  
**Tropics**—Donnie Mills Duo  
**Veets**—The Family Jewels, 8pm  
**Windmill Market**—Zach Sierke

## MONDAY AUG 19

**Felix's**—Chris Powell, 6:30pm  
**Hangout**—Wes Bayliss & Ricochet Creek, 6pm. Brooks Hubert, 10pm  
**Hayley's**—Karaoke  
**Lulu's**—Brent Burns, 6pm  
**Royal Street Tavern**—John Anthony on Piano, 6:30pm  
**Tacky Jacks**—Karaoke  
**Veets**—Jukebox, 4-10p

## TUESDAY AUG 20

**BlueGill**—Mobile Big Band Society, 6:30pm  
**Bojangles**—All the Single Ladies Night Karaoke w/ Jordan, 9pm  
**Brickyard**—Wes Bayliss  
**Butch Cassidy's**—Jerry Powell  
**Callaghan's**—Great Peacock  
**DeCuba**—Roman Street  
**Felix's**—Bryant Gilley, 6:30pm  
**Hangout**—Cool Rays, 6pm. Trigger 4, 10pm  
**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Live Music w/ Fuego's  
**Lulu's**—Kyle & Karl, 20  
**Royal Street Tavern**—John Anthony on Piano, 6:30pm  
**Soul Kitchen**—Willie Sugarcapps  
**Veets**—Josh Ewing, 7pm

## WEDNESDAY AUG 21

**BlueGill**—Ross +1, 6pm  
**Blues Tavern**—Mike Arata & Friends  
**Bojangles**—Open Mic Night with Dale Drinkard Jr., 8pm  
**Brickyard**—The Van Etten Brothers w/ Ben Leininger  
**Felix's**—Greg Brown, 6:30pm  
**Hangout**—Category 4, 6pm. Jeff Glass Band, 10pm  
**Joe Cain's Cafe**—Loose Cannons, 7:30pm  
**Legacy Bar and Grill**—Brent Loper  
**Lulu's**—Tony Brook, 6pm  
**Tacky Jacks**—Tommy Morse Band, 7pm  
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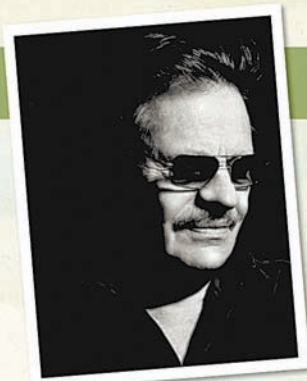
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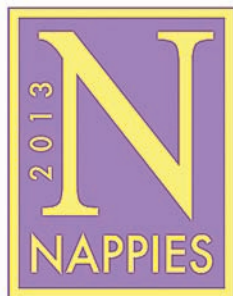
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# Willie Sugarcapps 'supergroup' CD release set

**Band:** 92 ZEW presents Willie Sugarcapps  
**CD Release Party**  
**Date:** Tue., Aug. 20 with doors at 6 p.m.  
**Venue:** Soul Kitchen, 219 Dauphin St., [www.soulkitchenmobile.com](http://www.soulkitchenmobile.com)  
**Tickets:** Free

The Frog Pond at Blue Moon Farm in Silverhill has featured some impressive collaborations between a number of talented musicians, and Willie Sugarcapps is one of the most epic conglomerations that has emerged from this unique venue.

This group features one of the biggest talents to come out of the Port City, Will Kimbrough, and Sugarcane Jane's Anthony Crawford and Savana Lee, with Grayson Capps and fellow Lost Cause Minstrel Corky Hughes rounding out this Gulf Coast supergroup. The release of their self-titled debut is proof that this band has grown into more than just a Sunday afternoon jam session at the farm.

While the official release date is Aug. 20, Willie Sugarcapps has already begun to spread their sounds. They gave their fans an opportunity to pick up this Americana masterpiece at their shows at WorkPlay in Birmingham and at their recent performance at Callaghan's.

The creation of this album was definitely a group effort. Capps penned songs like "Willie Sugarcapps" and "Poison." Kimbrough contributed "Mud Bottom" and "Oh Colorado" (co-written with Sarah Jean Kelly). Crawford composed the track "Energy." The album's songs were captured by Grammy Award winning producer/engineer Trina Shoemaker, who has worked with everyone from Queens of the Stone Age to Emmylou Harris. After the album's release, Willie Sugarcapps will begin performing across the Southeast in support of their album.



Photo courtesy of Facebook

Willie Sugarcapps makes their supergroup music available with first CD release on Aug. 20.

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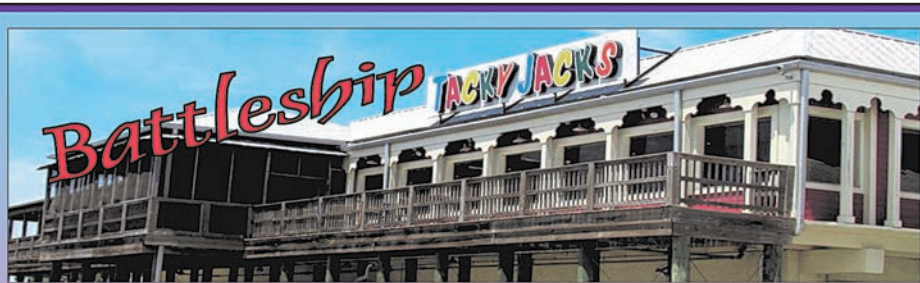
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## THE RUNDOWN

### Bayfest announces first acts

BY STEVE CENTANNI, Music Editor, [scentanni@lagniappemobile.com](mailto:scentanni@lagniappemobile.com)

BayFest fanatics were finally satiated with the first round of artist announcements for "Alabama's Largest Music Festival." So far, it seems like BayFest 2013 has a little something for everyone. The rockers will have Halestorm, Sevendust and Daughtry. Drive-By Truckers and Wet Willie will have some grooves for Azalea City Jam fans. Lovers of funk and soul should be pleased with the announcement of The Isley Brothers as well as Shawna P. and the EarthFunk Tribe. Country fans will flock to see Little Big Town, Kellie Pickler and Zac Brown Band. BayFest also revealed that local bands Trigger Root and Gretsch Lyles & the Modern Eldorados will be performing at BayFest 2013. Tickets are currently available on the BayFest website ([www.bayfest.com](http://www.bayfest.com)). Stay tuned to Lagniappe for more BayFest news!

Each year, the International Blues Challenge (IBC) brings the world's finest blues bands to Memphis' Beale Street. Blues groups spend several days performing before various panels of judges with hopes of being declared the world's best blues band for the year as well as scoring numerous perks such as sets at some of the nation's most prominent festivals. Participating bands serve as representatives of blues societies worldwide. Some societies handpick their choice, and others sponsor competitions to decide who

will represent them in Memphis. The Azalea City is home to one of these competitions.

On Sat., Aug. 10, the Gulf Coast Blues Society will choose their representative at their IBC competition at "Mobile's Only Blues Room" The Blues Tavern. Bands from up and down the coast will descend upon The Blues Tavern and spend the day vying for a chance to compete against other bands in Memphis. It is a chance for both blues bands and fans to experience new sounds and make new friends. The event will bring 10+ bands and a packed house to The Blues Tavern. The competition starts at noon, and all wanting to attend should get their early to get a good seat.

In late March of 2012, the South Mobile County Tourism Authority brought the SeaGrass Music Festival to the shores of Dauphin Island. This festival brought some of the best in bluegrass in the form of Ricky Skaggs, Sara Watkins and Delta Reign. The success of last year's festival has inspired the second installment of the SeaGrass Music Festival. On Sept. 21, music hungry masses will journey to Dauphin Island to experience a number of musical acts in the shadow of Ft. Gaines. Blues rock sensation Delbert McClinton has been the only act to be confirmed for the event. However, time will bring more additions to the festival's line-up.



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BY ASIA FREY, Film Critic, afrey@lagniappemobile.com

If you've heard anything at all about the film "The Sessions," the fact you've heard is probably that Helen Hunt gets totally naked in it. If you've actually seen the film, you realize that in the end, that's kind of all there is to know about it. After all is said and done, you must conclude that this is one of those stories that has an interesting premise but doesn't really move past that.

Here is that interesting premise: the talented John Hawkes stars as Mark, a guy whose childhood bout with polio left him severely handicapped, spending most of his time in an iron lung. However, he's a very smart and determined person, and attended college. He's a poet, journalist and devoted Catholic. On an assignment interviewing other disabled people about their sex lives, he gets a bright idea that there might be a whole aspect of human existence that is passing him by. We witness his unrequited love for a beautiful aide in one of the film's more promising early scenes.

Hawkes initially makes Mark a compelling guy; people really care about him when they get to know him. However, as the film moves along, no further complexity is revealed. He visits his friendly neighborhood priest, played rather generically loveable by William H. Macy, and with his encouragement, seeks out sex surrogate Helen Hunt to help him discover his sexual self.

Once the movie answers the question, "What the Helen Hunt is a sex surrogate?" it becomes repetitive. Basically, although she is paid to have intercourse with people, Hunt is a therapist not a prostitute because she's there in an altruistic, educational capacity, she only allows six sessions to avoid personal attachments to form, and once home, she describes her sessions into a little tape recorder. That part is particularly redundant since, believe me, we see it all the first time, no need for a recap.

So, once we get past the shock of seeing Helen Hunt in her birthday suit, and we get past the shock of the frankness of deflowering this poor shriveled iron lung dude, the movie

is actually pretty dull. I could have used a subplot. Every supporting character is blandly, well, supportive. Not a single person bats an eyelash at the whole set-up, which is nice for Mark but boring for us. His priest is delighted. His aides are thrilled.

Above all, it is Mark himself who comes to suffer from excessive niceness. He is, on the one hand, very intelligent but some instances of his naïveté are unconvincing. It's like no one wanted to risk being seen as rooting against the poor fellow, even the actor portray-



Photos courtesy of Rottentomatoes.com

"The Sessions" proves to be a very sweet after school special that is actually based on a true story. "The Sessions" stars Helen Hunt (left) and William H. Macy and John Hawkes (above).



ing him. He was so darn loveable that we really didn't have anywhere to go.

The film is based on a true story; a real journalist who lived like this sought a sex surrogate and improved his life. Proud we are of all of them. Nevertheless, if it is possible to be bored by a movie this graphic, you might well find yourself feeling that

way. Every one of their sessions involves the same thing; in detail, Hawkes rounds the proverbial bases, and everyone's loving, mature and matter-of-fact attitude pervades every scene.

The whole enterprise just plodded down for me, becoming ponderously IMPORTANT and SENSITIVE, until it concluded in a predictably warm, sweet yet sad way, and I felt as if I had just watched a very special episode of "Mad About You," or a sincere after school special that addressed a very, very unusual problem. And that problem was that one person got naked, another person pretended to live in an iron lung, but nobody won an Oscar. I can't believe Sean Penn let this thing get made without him. He's probably starving himself down for the remake right now. Or maybe Tom Hanks could play both characters. Boats were missed on this one.

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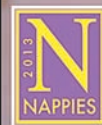
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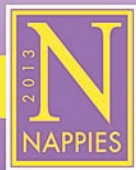
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# The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: National League

BY COLIN MERRITT, Sports Writer, colin@lagniappemobile.com

After our last look at the American League, this will be a glance at the Senior Circuit, the National League, right at the true midseason mark, the All-Star break. And, if you watched the All-Star Game, which probably only happened if you were forced, then you saw that the NL look a tad behind their AL comrades during the insomnia inducing 3-0 shutout. Those were the National League All-Stars? And they mustered only three hits? Yikes.

So, until football kicks-off in just a few more weeks, let's take a look at the Good, Bad and the Ugly, so far, in the National League:

(As of Aug. 5)

## National League East The Good

Atlanta Braves – Atlanta (67-45) has owned the National League East all season long, and now sits super comfortably with a 12-game lead over the scuffling Washington Nationals and a 16.5-game cushion over the now officially dead Philadelphia Phillies. The Braves have been red-hot as of late too, winning 10-straight games thanks to an offense that is producing just over six runs a game during the streak and a pitching staff that sports the second best ERA (3.28) in baseball. In fact, it's Atlanta's second 10-game winning streak of the season, a feat that has only been accomplished by four other teams in the NL over the last 50 years. Atlanta also owns the best home record in MLB (38-15). Those have to be good signs.

Another good sign is that the Braves have clear sailing ahead with a remaining schedule that features only seven games against teams with a record over .500. But don't pull back on the reigns just yet Freddie Gonzalez, let's not forget last season's epic collapse.

Chris Johnson – Chipper who? Atlanta's new third baseman, Chris Johnson, is leading the National League in batting with a hefty .346 average and has already accomplished something Chipper Jones never did – logging eight-straight multi-hit games. In fact, Johnson is the first Atlanta Braves' player to match that streak, which was last accomplished back in 1956 during the franchise's Milwaukee days by a player named Hank Aaron.

## The Bad

Philadelphia Phillies – It appears Philadelphia's dominance over the division is officially over. The Phillies (50-61) have dropped five in a row and 13 of their last 15 contests – including the most recent four-game sweep at home by archrival Atlanta – to fall an embarrassing 16.5 games out of first place. You can't pinpoint one fault either, everything has been bad. The Phillies rank in the lower third in all the major categories including 27th in batting average (.264) and 23rd in ERA (4.21).

Cole Hamels – One of the main reasons for Philadelphia's many years of recent success has been lefty ace Cole Hamels. Now, Hamels seems to be one of the main problems. With an ugly 4-13 record and an ERA to match, 3.87, Hamels is not living up to his nearly \$21 million a year salary.

## The Ugly

Miami Marlins – After loading up on talent two years ago,

then dumping it all last year, the Marlins are exactly where everyone expected them to be – last place. Miami (43-67) is last in baseball in basically every offensive category, including batting average (.231), runs, on-base percentage and slugging percentage. So, despite their team ERA of 3.66, which is ninth best in baseball, the Marlins are MLB's second worst team, behind only the Houston Astros (36-74), thanks to their basically non-existent offense.

B.J. Upton – Is it any coincidence that the Atlanta Braves most recent 10-game winning streak coincided with B.J. Upton's stint on the disabled list? What a bust. Upton signed a \$13 million a year deal with Atlanta in the off-season, the largest free agent contract in Braves' history, and is batting .182 with 20 RBI. As of last look, Upton was batting .026 with two outs and runners in scoring position. Just Pitiful.

## National League Central The Good

The Top of the Division – The top three teams in the Central are three of the best in all of baseball – St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati. Although the Reds have lost seven of 10, they still have 61 wins, which would have them in competition in every division, but they sit six games out in the Central. Pittsburgh (67-44) has been building toward this moment after three straight years of faltering late. The Pirates – that's right, the Pirates – own a 1.5-game lead over the always strong St. Louis Cardinals (65-45). The way it looks now, the Wild Card will be coming out of the Central. Are you ready for the Pirates in the postseason?

## The Bad

Chicago Cubs – It is always too easy to make fun of the Cubs, but let's do it anyway. With a 49-62 record, the Cubs sit 18 games out, which is par for the course in Chicago. Even though these Cubs are just as bad as usual, they have actually been surprisingly scrappy, especially on the road where they hold their own with a 26-29 mark. One of the reasons for the road success has been a pitching staff that's not too shabby, especially for Cubs' standards, allowing opponents just a .244 average, sixth best mark in MLB. It's been at the plate where these Cubbies keep up the tradition, batting .242 (24th) with an on-base percentage that is one of the worst, .302 (26th).

## The Ugly

Ryan Braun – The Milwaukee Brewers (47-64) are one of only eight teams in MLB still under fifty wins. Probably the main reason for the Brew Crew's swoon is the absence of former MVP Ryan Braun, who recently received a 65-game suspension from MLB for steroid use. Most stories say how embarrassing this is for Braun and baseball in general. Well, any true baseball fan knows that steroid abuse has been rampant for a long, long time. The only shame is on MLB's tortoise-like response to a problem that unfairly and quickly rewrote the record books. Start testing these guys and doling out more major punishments and lets get baseball back the way it was.

## National League West The Good

Los Angeles Dodgers – If this were written a couple of months ago, the Dodgers would have been in 'The Ugly' column. But thanks to a recent 14-game road-winning streak, Los Angeles (61-49) now owns a nifty 5.5-game lead over second place Arizona Diamondbacks (56-55). The NL record for consecutive road wins belongs to the 1916 New York Giants, by the way. These road warrior Dodgers have the third best ERA in baseball (3.42) and the sixth best batting average (.264). Solid pitching and consistent hitting is how you win baseball games, and the Dodgers are doing just that.

Yasiel Puig – The Dodgers winning ways this season has been a direct effect of the early season call-up of rookie outfielder Yasiel Puig. Despite his strange name, Puig has become a household name with his meteoric fame thanks to a smoking hot bat that has produced a .376 batting average and 11 homers. Puig has provided the spark that the Dodgers needed to get things going and maybe even saved manager Don Mattingly's job. Now, can the rookie keep it going into the postseason?

## The Bad

San Francisco Giants – The World Series champs from two of the last three seasons appear to have fallen on rough times after losing 10 of 16 to sink into last place, 12 games behind their nemesis Los Angeles Dodgers. Nothing has clicked in San Francisco this season. The pitching, which was their rock during the title runs, has been below average with overall numbers that rank near the bottom in baseball, while at the plate the Giants can get on base but they can't score runs. They rank 8th in batting average (.261), but near the bottom (24th) in runs scored. Things have gotten so bad that they are reportedly shopping 'The Freak,' starting pitcher Tim Lincecum, and have already dealt eccentric closer Brian Wilson to the Dodgers. That had to hurt.

## The Ugly

Puig Haters – Whenever you are good these days it seems you attract a good deal of haters. Just ask LeBron James and the Miami Heat. Well, the most recent target has been the Dodgers rookie phenom Yasiel Puig. In his first 20 games, Puig was batting nearly .500, and subsequently received almost over night fame thanks to ESPN's Sportscenter, whom seemed to revel in not only the youngster's talent, but also his odd name. Ever since it seems someone is spouting off about Puig. There is already a Face Book page called Puig Haters, no doubt started by jealous Giants' fans.

Even Red Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon said it would be a "joke" if Puig made the All-Star team. Isn't Papelbon in the AL and Puig in the NL? Well, Puig didn't make the team, which was the real joke. He is the most exciting and talked about young player in baseball and he wasn't at the All-Star game. Well played MLB.

Humble Prediction: Division winners – Atlanta, St. Louis and Los Angeles. Wild Card – Pittsburgh. World Series – Atlanta over Detroit.



# THANKS FOR VOTING FOR US!

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BY GREENBERRY TAYLOR

Students don't always need advice. Sometimes, they just need someone to listen. Frances Holk-Jones sympathizes with that need and has devoted her life to the cause.

Unfortunately, it was tribulation that led Jones down this road.

In October 1998, Jones' daughter, Jennifer, took her own life. She was a sophomore and had just transferred from Bayside Academy to Foley High School. Still distressed and grieving the loss of their daughter, Jones and her late husband decided they wanted to help prevent this from happening to other students. As a result, The Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation was founded that same year.

"Words can't describe the feeling of losing a child - it's an experience no parent should ever have to face," Jones said in a statement on the foundation's Website. "In the midst of our devastation, I knew there was still hope and wanted to make something positive out of this negative situation."

When the JCMF was established in '98 it was intended for high school students and was only offered at Bayside Academy and Foley High School. Today, all 45 Baldwin County Public Schools, kindergarten through high school, have the Peer Helper Program.

The Peer Help program is supported by the foundation. The program trains students, peer helpers, to listen, but never give advice to their fellow students with problems. Problems can range from things like parental divorce, family sickness, self-esteem issues and even more serious issues like dropping out of school and suicide.

Meredith Foster, Principal of Daphne High School, is a big advocate of the program and understands just how beneficial peer helpers are.

"These kids take on the role of peer mediators and actually handle true conflicts among peers at school in a semi-formal environment," Foster said. "They also are called upon to help when students are having difficulties socially, and they step in to be a friend to someone in need."

"Students sometimes need other students more than they need an adult."

Brittany Lassitter can attest to that.

During a visit to a local elementary school, Lassitter, who was a peer helper her junior and senior years at Foley, was struck by the realization that some students feel like no one is listening.

"We were at an elementary school with the peer helpers of Gulf Shores presenting a presentation on anti-bullying and holding an open forum afterwards," Lassitter said. "After the presentation I had so many kids come and pour their hearts out to me. They were so sad and just thought no one would, or was, listening to them."

Lassitter also recalled a time someone came to her dealing with the issue of abuse and suicide. She said it was because of her training that she was able to talk with her and get her some help.

Just a few years ago a Daphne student was killed in an automobile accident. Foster said the students wanted to conduct a memorial service for her on campus and entrusted the peer helpers to take the lead.

"They organized details and provided an opportunity for any students wanting to participate. It was important that this very emotional and special event be student-led. They did a beautiful job. It was one of the most poignant ceremonies many of us have been a part of."

Last February the JMC partnered up with the National

Association of Peer Program Professionals and held a national conference at the Grand Hotel, located in Point Clear, Ala. Jones said it was important to keep it local, but that didn't discourage the people from out-of-town from joining in. There were people from New York, Arizona, California and more -- over 150 coordinators, adults, who came for training in the Peer Helper program.

Students in Baldwin County are trained and supervised by professionals who adhere to the ethics and standards endorsed by the NAPPP. High School students take an accredited 17 week course in order to be part of the Peer Helper program, where they learn about listening and life lessons. A similar model is adapted for middle school children and younger and may be considered a club or group.

Right now, Jones said some Mobile Public schools are starting to be trained in peer counseling. She also pointed to Mobile County District Attorney Ashley Rich who has become very active in the anti-bullying campaign, saying she has sent people to JCM regarding the discussion of bullying.

"I always felt there was a need for something like this (peer counseling)," Jones said. "Students can tell other students things. Sometimes the best of parents are still way down on the list."

"I take great pride in turning Jennifer's tragedy into a positive legacy of helping others. I wish the JCM had existed to help my daughter."

For more information on the JCM, or how to get involved, you can visit [www.jennifermoorefoundation.com](http://www.jennifermoorefoundation.com).

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### August 8

**John Prince: A Retrospective (1950 – 1978)**, It's A Small World And I Have A Dream Three exhibitions — paintings and a few works in other media; models by the Mobile Miniature Club; and works by community members depicting their dreams for Mobile, on the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech — will be on display at the Mobile Arts Council, 318 Dauphin St., through noon on Aug. 23. Free. Mon - Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact: 251-432-9796. www.mobilearts.org.

### Thursdays at the Museum

Free admission and access to all galleries with special programs from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Mobile Museum of Art, 4850 Museum Drive. Free. Contact: 251-208-5200. www.mobilemuseumofart.com.

### Film: "The Way, Way Back"

The Crescent Theater, 208 Dauphin St., will show "The Way, Way Back" at 2, 6 and 8 p.m. The film is the funny and poignant coming of age story of 14-year-old Duncan's (Liam James) summer vacation with his mother, Pam (Toni Collette), her overbearing boyfriend, Trent (Steve Carell), and his daughter, Steph (Zoe Levin). Having a rough time fitting in, the introverted Duncan finds an unexpected friend in gregarious Owen (Sam Rockwell), manager of the Water Wizz water park. Through his funny, clandestine friendship with Owen, Duncan slowly opens up to and begins to finally find his place in the world — all during a summer he will never forget. Contact: 251-438-2005. www.crescenttheater.com.

### Grand Reopening: The Museum Store

The reopening of The Museum Store with The Back Room Gallery and Front Center will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Mobile Museum of Art, 4850 Museum Drive. Contact: 251-2085204. www.mobilemuseumofart.com.

### Meeting: Eastern Shore Camera Club

The meeting will provide members, from beginners to professionals, with educational and skill building opportunities in the art of photography. The meeting is open to anyone interested and will be at 6:30 p.m. at Faulkner State Community College, Centennial Building, at School Street and Fairhope Avenue, Fairhope. Contact: 251-401-0008. www.escamera.org.

### Auditions: Gloria Dei Chorale

Singer-friendly auditions for all voice parts for Gloria Dei Chorale will go through Sept. 16. Call for an appointment. Rehearsals are every Monday from 6:45 - 9 p.m. starting Aug. 12. The Christmas concert is Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Contact: 251-533-9810. www.gloriadeichorale.org.

### August 9

#### Film: "Frances Ha"

The Crescent Theater, 208 Dauphin St., will show "Frances Ha" Aug. 9-15. The film is a modern comic fable that explores New York, friendship, class, ambition, failure, and redemption. Contact: 251-438-2005. www.crescenttheater.com.

#### Film: "Much Ado About Nothing"

The Crescent Theater, 208 Dauphin St., will show "Much Ado About Nothing" Aug. 9-15. Shakespeare's classic comedy is given a contemporary spin in Joss Whedon's film, "Much Ado About Nothing". Shot in just 12 days (and using the original text), the story of sparring lovers Beatrice and Benedick offers a dark, sexy and occasionally absurd view of the intricate game that is love. Contact: 251-438-2005. www.crescenttheater.com.

### Artwalk at Kangal

Featured artists are John Byl and the Azalea Woodturners with smooth jazz by Jerry Robbins from 5 - 9 p.m. at Kangal Gallery in the SAIL LOFT, 58 N. Royal St. The art will continue to be on display Tue - Fri, 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sat, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Contact: 251-434-0330. www.kangalgallery.com.

### Reception: John Prince: A Retrospective (1950 – 1978)

It's A Small World And I Have A Dream Three exhibitions — paintings and a few works in other media; models by the Mobile Miniature Club; and works by community members depicting their dreams for Mobile, on the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech — will be on display at the Mobile Arts Council, 318 Dauphin St., through noon on Aug. 23. Free. Mon - Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact: 251-432-9796. www.mobilearts.org.

### LoDa Artwalk

Exhibitions with receptions and entertainment in a variety of downtown galleries and other venues on the second Friday from 6-9 p.m. in the LoDa Arts District (Lower Dauphin Street). Contact: (251) 208-7443. www.ncsmobile.org.

### Keep On Playin'

A series of six paintings by Daniel Day will be on display from 6 - 9 p.m. at 360 Jazz Café, 360 Dauphin St., through Aug. 31. Contact: 251-378-5795. www.360jazzcafe.com.

### Gonzalez Duo

Violinist Jorge Ivan Gonzalez and pianist Adonis Gonzalez will perform a program including music by Mozart, Sinding and Still as part of the Mobile Symphony Orchestra Summer Series at 7 p.m. at the Larkins Music Center, 257 Dauphin St. Free. Contact: 251-432-2010/ www.mobilesymphony.org

### Oliver!™

The musical by Lionel Bart, based on Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens will be performed Fri and Sat, 7:30 p.m. and Sun, 2:30

p.m. at Playhouse-in-the-Park, 4851 Museum Drive. Adults/ \$15; students and senior citizens/ \$12. Contact: 251-602-0630. www.playhouseinthepark.org.

### Roman Street and Eric Essix

Roman Street and Eric Essix will perform as part of the Azalea City Smooth Jazz Series at 8 p.m. at the Saenger Theatre, 6 S. Joachim St. Tickets: Online: \$30; box office: \$35. Contact: www.azaleacitysmoothjazz.com.

### August 10

#### Indoor Treasure Sale

The Government Street United Methodist Church, 901 Government St., will hold an indoor treasure sale from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Contact: 251-438-4714 or thebeehive@thebeehive.us.

#### Book Signing: Elaine Hussey

Author Elaine Hussey will sign copies of her latest novel "The Sweetest Hallelujah" from 1 to 3 p.m. at Page & Palette, 32 S. Section St., Fairhope. Deeply moving and richly evocative, "The Sweetest Hallelujah" is a remarkable tale about finding hope in a time of turmoil, and about the transcendent and transformative power of friendship. Contact: 251-928-5295. www.pageandpalette.com.

#### Drink-N-Scrawl

For all writers take an excuse to "get out of your writing cave," buy your own drink/food, take notes, write, and network with other writers with the Mobile Writers' Guild from 2 to 4 p.m. at Bluegill Restaurant, 3775 Battleship Pkwy., Spanish Fort. http://mobilewritersguild.com.

### August 11

#### Open Studio

Artists at work and complimentary mimosas will be at Cathedral Square Gallery, 612 Dauphin St., from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Contact: 251-694-0278 or lhall699@aol.com. http://cathedralsquaregallery.blogspot.com.

Announcement of the acts at the event will be released at a later date. www.saengernitelive.com.

### August 17

Poetry Reading/Booksigning: Vernon Fowlkes  
Vernon Fowlkes will read from his new collection "The Sound of Falling (Negative Capability Press)" at The Blind Mule, The Attic, 57 N. Claiborne St., The bar opens at 3:30 p.m. and the reading is at 4 p.m. Copies of the book available for purchase by cash, check, or credit card. Contact: 251-694-6853 (Blind Mule).

### August 18

Artists at work and complimentary mimosas will be at Cathedral Square Gallery, 612 Dauphin St.,

### The Weddings to Brag About Bridal Show

The bridal show will be from 11:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Mobile Civic Center. The show will be filled with food, music and entertainment. There will be a grand prize of a free wedding, reception and honeymoon. Admission-\$10 at the gate. Contact: gimckean@weddingstobragabout.com or 251-479-3212. www.weddingstobragabout.com.

### Auditions: "Legally Blonde: The Musical"

Audition for "Legally Blonde: The Musical" at Joe Jefferson Playhouse, 11 S. Carlen St., on Sunday and Monday. Performances of the musical are Nov. 8 - 10, 15 - 17, 22 - 24. Contact: 251-471-1534. www.joejeffersonplayers.com.

### August 13

#### Chickasabogue 2 Miler

The Chickasabogue 2 Miler will start at its namesake with registration at 6:30 a.m. and race time at 8 a.m. Contact: Margaret Olive at 251-401-8039 or mlolive@bellsouth.net.

### August 14

#### Power Lunch

The Government Street United Methodist Church, 901 Government St., will have a Power Lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact: 251-438-4714 or thebeehive@thebeehive.us.

### Presentation: The Hanging of Three Alabama Sammies

In Iowa Derryn Moten, PhD (Alabama State University) will give a presentation as part of the Learning Lunch series at noon at the History Museum of Mobile, 111 S. Royal St. The program will be The Hanging of Three Alabama Sammies In Iowa: Crime and Punishment During the Great War. Bring lunch but complimentary beverages provided. Contact: 251-208-7569. www.museumofmobile.com.



### August 15

#### Oakleigh Volunteer Training

Learn about opportunities for guides, gardeners and more at 5:30 p.m. at Oakleigh, 300 Oakleigh Place. Reservations requested. Contact: Cyndi Newell at 251-454-1967 or manager@historicoakleigh.org.

### Film: "Lake Windfall"

The thriller will be shown by the host, Mobile Chapter of Alabama Association of the Deaf, at Mobile Public Library, Ben May Main Library, Bernheim Hall, 701 Government St. Refreshments and introductions will be at 4 p.m. and the film will start at 5:30 p.m. \$10. Contact: Shawn Whiting at smwhiting326@gmail.com.

### Thursdays at the Museum

Free admission and access to all galleries with special programs from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Mobile Museum of Art, 4850 Museum Drive. Free. Contact: 251-208-5200. www.mobilemuseumofart.com.

### August 16

#### Film: "The Butler"

The Crescent Theater, 208 Dauphin St., will begin showing "The Butler." irector Lee Daniels (Precious) teams up with Emmy Award-winning screenwriter Danny Strong to tell the remarkable story of White House butler Eugene Allen (played by Oscar-winner Forest Whitaker), who served eight U.S. presidents over the course of 30 years, and witnessed sweeping social change during his three decades of service at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Contact: 251-438-2005. www.crescenttheater.com.

### Saenger Nite Live

Saenger Nite Live, which features musical acts, dance, skits and more, will be at Saenger Theater, 6 S. Joachim St., at 7 p.m.

from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Contact: 251-694-0278 or lhall699@aol.com. http://cathedralsquaregallery.blogspot.com.

### Film "Gone With the Wind"

The Saenger Theater, 6 S. Joachim St., will show the classic "Gone With the Wind" at 3 p.m. www.mobilesaenger.com.

### August 19

#### Moonlight Chasse Ballroom Dance Society

Dancing, live music and cash bar with lessons from 7 to 7:30 p.m. and dance from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at Fitzpen Place, 11247 Hwy 31, Spanish Fort. Partner not required. Members/ \$7; nonmembers/ \$10; college students/ \$5. Contact: Cassie Fishbein at 251-377-4069 or cassief13@aol.com.



## ONGOING EVENTS

### Shared Expressions 2013

The exhibition by The Bay Area Art Partners will be at the Mobile Museum of Art, 4850 Museum Drive, through Sept. 1. Tue, Wed, Fri - Sun, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Members/ free; nonmembers: adults/ \$10; students/ \$6); Thu, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. (free). Contact: 251-208-5200. www.mobilemuseumofart.com.

### Summer Splash and Look Up Mobile!

Featuring all gallery artists and Look Up Mobile! books on sale at the Kangal Gallery in the SAIL LOFT, 58 N. Royal St. The exhibit will run through Sept. 19. Tue - Fri, 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sat, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Contact: 251-434-0330. www.kangalgallery.com

### "The Last Reef"

The IMAX film "The Last Reef" will be shown at the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, JL Bedsole IMAX Theater, 65 Government St., through Sept. 29. From Tue - Sat, at 10 a.m., noon, 1, 3 and 4 p.m.; and Sun, 1 and 3 p.m. Members: 19+ / \$6.75; 13 - 18 & 60+ / \$5.75; 2 - 12 / \$5.25; nonmembers: 19+ / \$8.75; 13 - 18 & 60+ / \$7.25; 2 - 12 / \$6.50. Combo tickets, which include exhibits, with film available. Contact: 251-208-6873. www.exploreum.com.

### Helen Keller Art Show

An annual traveling exhibition

of art by students with visual and/or hearing impairments in Alabama public, private, home and residential schools will be on display at the University of South Alabama, Library, First Floor Gallery through Sept. 30. For Library hours: www.southalabama.edu/univlib/info/hours.html. Contact: 251-460-7021. www.southalabama.edu/librarygalleries.

### On Display: The Silent Cities of Peru

Archaeological photography by Fernando La Rosa will be on display at Mobile Museum of Art, 4850 Museum Drive, through Oct. 27. Tue, Wed, Fri - Sun, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Members/ free; nonmembers: adults/ \$10; students/ \$6); Thu, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. (free). Contact: 251-208-5200. www.mobilemuseumofart.com.

### On Display: And If, Between The Two

Walden Braille paintings by Ken Kotara will be on display at the Mobile Museum of Art, 4850 Museum Drive, through Nov. 3. Tue, Wed, Fri - Sun, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Members/ free; nonmembers: adults/ \$10; students/ \$6) and Thu, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. (free). Contact: 251-208-5200. www.mobilemuseumofart.com.

### Futures Project

An exhibition that examines future possibilities for the Gulf Coast, which features work by emerging and established visual artists of international stature — 2X4, Candy

Chang, Dawn DeDeaux, Tom Leaser, Xavier de Richemont and Kenny Scharf — at Space 301, 301 Conti St., through Jan. 31. Futures Project will also include nine months of extensive educational and public programming, community resources and the development of an Art Park. Contact: 215-208-5671. www.centreforthelivingarts.com.

### The Ultimate Country Dance Experience

Southern Country, 711 Shelton Beach Road, Saraland, will have Kick'n Cardio Dance Class every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. and dance lessons Friday and Saturday night from 7 to 8 p.m. Contact: 251-709-6780.

### Sunset Yoga on the Bluff

Every second and fourth Friday of the month is Sunset Yoga on the Bluff overlooking the bay during sunset, which is around 6-7 p.m. Bring your own mat and a friend. Beginner friendly classes. The event raises money for The Haven. Fairhope. Contact: 251-379-4493. ThriveFairhope.com.

### Pay what you can yoga

The Kula Yoga Community leads yoga classes for every body at six locations in Mobile and Daphne. For the schedule, go to www.kulayogacommunity.org.

### Moonlight Chasse' Ballroom Dance Society

The first and third Monday of each month features live music, dancing,

a cash bar, and dance lessons from 7 to 10 p.m. at Fitzpen Place, 11247 U.S. Highway 31, Spanish Fort. Students with college I.D. \$5. Public/\$10. Members/\$7. No partner necessary. Facebook: Moonlight Chasse Ballroom Dance Society. Contact: Cassie Fishbein at 251-377-4069 or cassief13@aol.com.

### On-Going Argentine Tango and Salsa Lessons

Tango and Salsa lessons will be at Southern Edge Dance Studio, 251 Greeno Road, Fairhope, with Salsa starting at 7:15 p.m. (Salsa Lessons begin May 7, 2013) and Tango lessons at 8:30 p.m. No partner required. Every Tuesday, except third Tuesday, dancing at Holiday Inn Downtown, Skyview Lounge, 7:00 p.m. Southern Edge Dance Studio, 251 Greeno Road, Fairhope. Facebook: Argentine Tango by the Bay. Contact: Cassie Fishbein at 251-377-4069 or Cassief13@aol.com.

### Meeting: Eastern Shore Camera Club

Providing members, from beginners to professionals, with educational and skill building opportunities in the art of photography; open to anyone interested. Second Thur., 6:30 p.m. Faulkner State Community College, Centennial Building (School St and Fairhope Ave., Fairhope) Contact: 251-401-0008. www.escamera.org.

### Workshop: Sumi-e Studio

Shibui Chapter of the Sumi-e Society of America will meet (usually) the first and third Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Mobile Garden Club House, 4850 Zeigler Blvd. First two classes are free and then each class is \$2 with membership in the Chapter, which is \$10 annually. For supplies, notify Mary Rodning. Contact: (251) 649-8586 or mary@maryrodning.com (Mary Rodning). www.sumiesociety.org.

### First Friday Artwalk

Exhibit openings with guest artists, refreshments and live entertainment at a variety of venues; map of participating venues, including specialty shops and restaurants, available at the Eastern Shore Art Center, 401 Oak St., from 6 - 8 p.m. in downtown Fairhope. Contact: 251-928-2228. www.esartcenter.com.

### LoDa Artwalk

Exhibitions with receptions and entertainment in a variety of downtown galleries and other venues on the second Friday from 6-9 p.m. in the LoDa Arts District (Lower Dauphin Street). Contact: (251) 208-7443. www.ncsmobile.org.

### Tour: Space 301

Tours of the Main Gallery and Fabrication Hall will be Wed. and Sat., 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. at Centre for the Living Arts/Space 301, 301 Conti St. Free with admission. Contact: 215-208-5671. www.centreforthelivingarts.com.

# STUDIO ten

IF IT'S HAPPENING  
ON THE GULF COAST

IT'S HAPPENING  
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WEEKDAY MORNINGS  
AT 8:00 AM ON

FOX ten



BY ROB HOLBERT, Managing Editor, rholbert@lagniappemobile.com

**A**fter a little more than a year as the morning show host and program director for WZEW, Mike “Hurricane Shane” Schoenher has left the station.

His departure, however, has made room for the return of Gene Murrell, who has done two previous stints with Mobile’s most eclectic station.

Schoenher is headed back to his home town of Birmingham, according to a press release put out by ZEW Director of Operations and Programming Tim Camp Aug. 3. Schoenher’s departure was rather sudden, but neither Camp nor Schoenher had much to say about the reasons for the split.

“Shane was in my opinion the best Morning show host the Zew has had,” Camp said.

Schoenher declined comment.

Camp’s press release also said he would be taking over the reins as program director, and that Murrell would be returning to the airwaves and also working as assistant program director. Murrell is scheduled to return Aug. 19. He will take over as midday host, which includes the ZEW’s popular “Gumbo Shop” at noon.

In February of last year, it was Murrell who left to make way for Schoenher. Schoenher previously worked with Birmingham Mountain Radio, an Internet station that has recently gone terrestrial.

The moves also mean current midday host Pablo Foster moved back to mornings Aug. 5 and Camp began hosting middays until Murrell’s arrival. Camp’s release focused on the positives of Murrell’s return.

“Everyone at 92 ZEW is excited and thrilled about Gene Murrell’s return to the station. Gene has great love for the ZEW, its format, its listeners and the Mobile music scene. Gene’s passion for the ZEW will complete a team of broadcasters who all share that same passion,” he wrote.

The changes behind the mic come on the heels of the recent departure of Emily Hayes, who has gone on to help start Mod Mobilian radio, an Internet station affiliated with the arts & entertainment website she works with and patterned after Birmingham Mountain Radio.

That move led to former ZEW jock Tony Ploszynski coming back to take over the evening/nighttime slot.

The station is marking its 30th year on the air.

## “Repurposing” for hits

Recently there was a rather lively debate on the electronic pages of al.com concerning whether content providers for the site were using other media’s work to simply fill their space and attract web hits. Some readers took al.com officials to task for writers not doing their own work in some cases.

Some even waved around the dreaded “P word” (That’s plagiarism. Get your minds out of the gutter.) so things were pretty tense. Naturally al.com leadership defended their reporting practices, and one even claimed media in Mobile are routinely chasing after stories broken on their site.

Now to be perfectly honest, there are certainly stories al.com is breaking that others of us in the market are not. Of course the same could be said of any of us, newspaper, television, radio and web alike. Despite their considerable reduction in man/womanpower over the past year, al.com still has more flip-flops on the street than most other organizations.

That said, I did take a look at some of the “repurposing” of other media’s stories at al.com and wasn’t too impressed by what I found. It appears that often the site is simply reworking other agencies’ entire stories, magnanimously giving them credit at the beginning and a link to the original at the end.

Back in the stale old pre-Internet days this kind of think would have earned a quick rebuke from the bosses, if not a quick pink slip. Now it’s encouraged.

Examples of what’s happening are plentiful and it’s a nifty trick. Rewrite a competitor’s entire story — giving them credit and a link, of course — place it under your own byline and post it. What reason would someone have to go to WALA’s website to read about a bank robbery they covered when you’ve already rewritten the whole thing?

These days it’s just about grabbing those precious web hits. But some al.com readers brought up an even more question-

able example. One reader thought a June 24 New York Times story about sweeter new whiskey offerings looked suspiciously similar to a July 21 al.com story on the same subject. And this one offered no nod to the Times.

I have to admit there were some strange similarities. For instance, the Times article contained the sentence: “Whiskey, once the most tradition-bound and austere of spirits, has developed a sweet tooth of its own.”

The al.com story read: “Flavored variations of the typically austere drink have been introduced to cater to those who want a sweeter experience.” Same meaning, mostly different words, but “austere” kind of jumps out.

The stories ring almost exactly the same bells throughout, citing the same statistics, mentioning the same brands and products and making the same observations. Perhaps it is pure coincidence the stories covered all the same information and even used the same statistics and some of the same language.

The site has also taken to having content providers who are repurposing other people’s work slap datelines on those stories. This provides the strange reading experience in which you might read a story from Berlin, Germany with a particular writer’s name on it, then click on another from the same writer on the same day and see a dateline from San Francisco or Tokyo, all while that writer is sitting in Mobile.

Traditionally in journalism the dateline has been used to denote to readers that the reporter was actually at that location when he/she gathered the information and wrote the story. On al.com it seems to be used as a method of making it seem like they have reporters crawling across the globe.

The issues presented by this kind of reposting or repurposing of others’ work are many. First it seems to be an attempt to grab web hits al.com doesn’t deserve. It also seems like an attempt to trick readers. But perhaps the worst part of it is that it can also serve to perpetuate an inaccurate report that comes from the original media agency.

Maybe it’s time al.com takes a look at the way it’s re-reporting the news.

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# Pisces: You'll pull a Weiner

BY DR. ZODIAC, Astrology Guy

**Leo (7/23-8/22)** — Manti Te'o was into fake significant others before it was cool. Remember that. If you want to jump on board with Te'o and ... others in Mobile, just remember you'll have the hipster response of "I did it before it was cool." Do you really want to put up with that? The only thing worse than someone saying they knew about a band when they formed in a garage in Reykjavik, Iceland is someone saying they had a fake girlfriend or wife before you. Dr. Z wonders when Mayor Sam Jones going to start wearing ironic T-shirts and grow out a beard or handlebar moustache?

**Virgo (8/23-9/22)** — As Mobile is about to choose a new mayor, you are getting pretty sad. Most people want this thing to be done with, but for you, you're going to miss the way Sandy Stimpson says "lumber" and "mayor." You also miss Sam Jones' Facebook updates and his culinary delights. You'll even miss those Morgan Freeman sound alike voiceovers. Most of all you'll miss Doris Brown's stories about her and Elvis. Why can't it always be election season in the city of Mobile?

**Libra (9/23-10/22)** — Danny Sheridan has spoken so the mayor has already basically been elected. The long shot Sandy Stimpson has improved since November 2012 when Sheridan said Sam Jones was a landslide favorite. Unfortunately for Sandy, Sheridan pulled out his crystal ball and deemed Jonesy (Sheridan's pet name for Sam Jones) the winner again. It's got you kind of bummed out because you like the democratic process, but now it feels pointless. Just for thrills, you'll vote Aug. 27 anyway.

**Scorpio (10/23-11/21)** — It is in the final days before SEC football kicks off and you've already driven yourself insane waiting for the first snap. Frankly you can't focus on anything else. While at work, you paint the clothed part of your body the colors of your favorite team. At work, you'll listen to only your team's band and/or fight song. Oddly enough when football starts, you'll kind of be over the whole thing.

**Sagittarius (11/22-12/21)** — Now that the daily afternoon summer showers are officially here and will be for a while you really need to get cracking on creating that secret napping spot in your office. You know a spot in a cabinet or storage room where you can nap while it rains. Creating the perfect napping hole really does lead to productivity. Just remember to make sure it stays hidden or else you'll be napping in the unemployment line ... again.

**Capricorn (12/22-1/19)** — You have decided the best way to determine which candidate gets your vote ... a battle that's "Iron Chef" meets the "Hunger Games." What you would do is have the candidates battle for certain highly sought after ingredients — fish (plates), oranges from a grove, chicken, ice cream, etc. — and tools. Then once they've battled, they have to create the best dish possible. Whoever is still standing and makes the best culinary delight

will win your vote. Now all you have to do is get Sam Jones, Sandy Stimpson and Doris Brown on board ...

**Aquarius (1/20-2/18)** — Indeed your house is haunted, but enough about that. You'll profit from a slightly illegal beating game with some friends regarding the upcoming city elections. It's funny because most of your friends know way more about politics than you. Anyway, you'll clean up by picking not only the winners of the races, but the percentage points as well. You should probably use your winnings for a new place or at least a house blessing from a priest.

**Pisces (2/19-3/20)** — You will pull a Weiner ... an Anthony Weiner that is. You will accidentally send a "racy" photo online or in text to someone who was not supposed to get it. Not only that but your nickname for your boo will also be known — kissy kissy snufflekins. Frankly that's more embarrassing than any of your naughty bits being partially shown. Your boo will not be pleased everyone knows their pet name either.

**Aries (3/21- 4/19)** — The next few days will make you feel like you're in the "Twilight Zone." It won't go so far as aliens coming to earth, but things will seem to be upended. You'll exercise, eat healthy and not drink. Even weirder, your friends will respect your decision to hangout at your house watching Netflix shows. Soon you'll realize that you're not in the "Twilight Zone" but merely becoming an adult. How depressing.

**Taurus (4/20-5/20)** — You've been hanging out and drinking in the great outdoors lately and it's finally going to catch up to you. While hanging out near a river, lake, creek or something, you'll get really, really drunk, which is nothing new. However, mosquitos will be out and about and up your shorts. Prepare yourself for the most embarrassing itching situation one can possibly have.

**Gemini (5/21-6/21)** — You are on the cusp of something wonderful. It may be a good hair day or a good neck beard day. Then again it might be something seriously awesome like finding a forgotten Twinkie or a good roll around in the hay. Either way, something good will happen in the coming days that will put a smile on your face for at least a week. Also, it's OK to hope you find a Twinkie instead of the other scenarios.

**Cancer (6/22-7-22)** — Your mind is focused on Mercury going through your house, which means you've gotten the wrong kind of brownies again. Under the influence of chocolate, butter and other stuff, you think Mercury makes you less talkative, but actually it's just the other stuff keeping you quiet. However, no one likes it when you get all weird about planets in houses and stuff. It's just weird.



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# The 2013 Nappie Awards don't disappoint in gossip

BY BOOZIE BEER NUES, Social Butterfly, boozie@lagniappemobile.com

Oh lord, y'all. I think I am just now getting over my Nappie Awards hangover. Yep, I'm pretty sure the Boozester definitely may have lost one of her last two brain cells. And my spies, oh my spies, they were misbehaving more than I have ever seen, so they are all getting raises, of course. Their usual payment of a six pack of the Beast will now be raised to Natty Light! Boozie is a giver. Just know that.

Well anyway, let's get to all the Nappie-licious goodness!

## It's Nappie Time!

On Thursday July 25, around 1,000 people joined the staff of Lagniappe at the Saenger Theatre as we celebrated 11 years of Keeping Mobile Funky. It was the biggest crowd to date. The cocktail hour included delicious heavy appetizers by Chef Rob & Co and busy, busy bartenders.

Congressional hopefuls Bradley Byrne (Nappie Winner for Next Congressman), Quin Hilyer, Wells Griffith, Daniel Dyas and I believe Jessica James were all in attendance, as was District 2 Mobile City Council candidate Lakeshia Dotson. There may have been others but that's all the spies reported seeing and again most of them were drunk by 7. Mobile County Sheriff Sam Cochran also stopped by and mayoral candidate Sandy Stimpson made a late appearance to accept his Nappie Award, as readers voted for "One Mobile" over "Too Busy to be Divided."

Speaking of politics, District Attorney Ashley Rich was unable to attend, but sent an acceptance video. These Nappies are getting fancy y'all! Next year maybe someone can accept live via satellite.

Joe Cain and his band of followers made a grand appearance, along with his admiring mistresses dressed in red. Best Drag Queen Performer Ms. Venus looked amazing as usual and was pleased to announce the documentary on her will be finished soon.

The awards show started off with a surprise performance by Mobile's own Prancing Elites, who recently gained worldwide fame on the Interweb after a video of one of their performances went viral after Shaquille O'Neal tweeted it, receiving nearly half a million hits. They even had a reporter with them who had flown in from NYC to do a piece on them for Time magazine. They were amazing and had the crowd screaming.

After the Elites' stellar performance, the Nappie Award video featured a puppet show starring puppet Nicolas Cage and puppet Danny Glover. Apparently Puppet Cage felt he should be the next mayor of Mobile. There was puppet sex and puppet violence and puppet tampering with police records. Lagniappe's film critic Asia Frey gave it two thumbs up!

Another highlight of the evening and a first for the Nappie Awards came when a gentleman in love proposed to his

longtime girlfriend on stage. The proposer, James, contacted Lagniappe several months in advance to arrange this very special surprise. His soon-to-be bride Susana just thought she was there with her company, SunnySide Theater, who was there to receive a Nappie. Before the first award was given she was called up on stage by Lagniappe's co-publisher Ashley Trice to accept a "new Nappie award" for "Person Most Likely to Be Surprised at the 2013 Nappie Awards." After she was given this "award," James came out and got down on one knee and asked her to be his wife. She accepted ... thankfully. The crowd screamed, especially their families, many who had flown in to be there. We are so happy for them and glad they let us be a part of their lives. We better get a wedding invite!

Many of our local news "celebs" were in attendance as well, including FOX 10's Bob Grip (Best Evening Newscast), Joe Emer (Sexiest Local Newsmen), Michael White (Best Morning Newscast), Chasity Byrd and Cherish Lombard (Sexiest Local Newswomen, No. 1 and 2, respectively). Nappie Award winner for Best Anchor Mel Showers, Best Meteorologist Alan Sealls and Best Sports Reporter Randy Patrick were there to accept their awards for WKRG.

WNTM talk radio host Uncle Henry (DJ Whose Voice Leads You to Believe You want to see HIM naked) accepted his award in what appeared to be disgust and enjoyed some friendly trash talking from WABD's Q-Tip, last year's winner for the Naked DJ coveted award, as he and Blondie accepted their award for Best Morning Show. Blondie who received the DJ Whose Voice Leads You to Believe You want to see HER naked award revealed she was really just a cat lady. Sean and Wayne from FMTalk 106.5 were pleased to pick up their award for Best Talk Radio Hosts, as were 95KSJ's Dan and Shelby, who won Best DJ Team. The Zew's Tim Camp, LeeAnn Waters and Shane Schoenher accepted their award for Favorite Radio Station. This marks their 11th win in a row. Talk about category dominance!

The next two hours saw many of the nearly 200 winners accepting their awards and making kind (or not-so-kind) remarks. Best Singer Holli Mosley and Best Guitar Player Dale Drinkard rocked it with a performance of two of their songs together. And Best Bartender Cheryl Shifflet proved why she is the best, as she accepted her Nappie, she poured herself, Rob and Ashley shots of tequila. And they were NOT baby shots. Ouch!

The after party at the rooftop pool at the Battle House hotel was fabulous. As people arrived, they noticed one gentleman had already jumped in the pool. He had not bothered to take off the full dress suit he was wearing. Later in the evening, more folks, as expected, jumped in the pool with varying degrees of clothing on, including a dip by Mobile's Most Eligible Bachelor, who may have given those around him a brief glimpse of why he was chosen (cryptic enough for you?). Lee Yankie provided the tunes



Photo/Gabe Tynes

The 2013 Nappie Awards had many politicians and even a surprise proposal. Congratulations to James and Susana.

under the purple glow of the RSA Tower, which was lighted in Lagniappe's "signature color" for the evening.

We always have a good time at the Nappies. But we are always glad they only come around once a year. Thanks to everyone for making it possible and for all those who came and helped make it funky!

## A new "infestation" at Termite Hall

We hear the spirit of Eugene Walter may be filling Termite Hall again soon. "Rumor" has it there are some top secret talks to bring back something in which Walter would most definitely approve. It will be by invitation only and those invites will go to the most talented folks representing the arts community from every generation. Talk about cryptic, but we promise to have more details soon.

Well kids, that's all I have for now. Just remember, whether rain or shine, dramatic or scandalous, or some plain ol' Nappie lovin', I will be there. Ciao!

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Lagniappe has 48,801 print readers each issue, and 95,226 print readers over 6 months, representing a readership gain of 22% over last year.

**AGE OF READERS**  
Lagniappe's average reader is 46 years old, with 74.7% of our readers' aged 35 or older.

**INCOME**  
Our readers have an average household income of \$75,451, more than \$17,000 above the market average of Mobile and Baldwin counties. 24.5% of Lagniappe households earn \$100,000 or more annually.

**GENDER**  
56.1% of Lagniappe's readers are women, 43.9% are men.

**AUTOMOTIVE**  
16.9% of our readers plan to buy a new vehicle in the next year, more than 5% over the market average. 23.5% plan on buying a used car in the next 12 months, over 7% more than the market average.

**LAGNIAPPE READERS ALSO:**

- Spend an average of \$141 per week on groceries
- Represent 88% of the micro-brew buyers in the area
- Spend over \$3,000 per year on home improvements
- Are 50% more likely to eat seafood
- Are 44% more likely to purchase liquor and wine
- Are 80% more likely to have a 401K plan
- Are 150% more likely to have an IRA
- Are 78% more likely to own stocks or stock options

**EDUCATION**  
68.5% of Lagniappe's readers have some college education or above. 21.4% have college degrees and 13.2% have post-graduate degrees as well, nearly double the market average.

**OCCUPATION**  
Lagniappe readers' occupations are 55.5% white collar, 28.1% blue collar.

**HOME OWNERSHIP**  
73.8% of Lagniappe's readers own their own homes, and 24.7% rent their residence. Our readers' average home value is \$241,630, more than \$55,000 above market average.

**DINING**  
Lagniappe's readers love restaurants. 96.5% went to a restaurant in the last month. 89.1% have been to a sit down restaurant in the last 30 days, and are 25% more likely than the average resident to eat at a fine dining restaurant.

**CELL PHONES AND COMPUTERS**  
Lagniappe's readers are well connected. 95.9% own mobile phones, with 61.4% owning smart phones, nearly 15% over the average Mobile/Baldwin resident. 77.4% of our readers own home computers, 7% above the market average.

(\*Scarborough Research, CSA, Release 2, Oct. 2011 - Sept. 2012)

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