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MAY 26, 2016 - JUNE 1, 2016 | www.lagniappemobile.com

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Editorial, advertising and production offices are located at 1100B Dauphin St.
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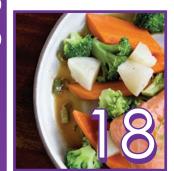
BAY BRIEFS

Health officials are putting a pinch on bar owners who offer free crawfish to drum up business.

COMMENTARY

Life advice for recent graduates.

BUSINESS Bay Minette lands a \$1.5 million investment by Morganton Pressure



CUISINE

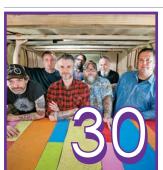
Saisho, the latest creation of NoJa's rockstar chef Chakli Digas, serves modern American cuisine inspired by Japanese cooking.

COVER

The Mobile County Commission has proposed to borrow \$20 million for the first phase of a controversial \$40 million soccer and aquatic complex.



Add "Arts" to "Science, Technology, Engineering and Math" and you get STEAM.



MUSIC

Memphis band Lucero comes to The Merry Widow on the strenath of its latest album, "All a Man Should Do.'

"Don Verdean" may be a satirical comedy or sincere, but nearly all the performances are superficial.

MEDIA

Catt Sirten's "Live from Avalon" is picked up by PBS.

The Publix Grandman Triathlon is an athletic ride-along program catering to vets and disabled children.

Boozie saw it all hangout at Hangout and Stephen Nodine personally says goodbye.

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Smarter than you think we are

No one at NBC has, to my knowledge, said anything flattering about Alabama or Mississippi, but Mr. [Tom] Brokaw's low-intellect suggestion reminds me of a funny incident on the "Morning Joe" show on MSNBC a few years ago. I remember because I'm an opera fan and the Metropolitan had a new general manager who was really screwing up the Met and trying to attract people by putting a mega screen in the plaza at Lincoln Center.

One weeknight they presented "Aida," one of the three most popular operas in the world. The next morning, one of the wispy intellectual female reporters from NBC told how she got caught up in the crowd at Lincoln Center over some show on the screen.

Joe Scarborough, the show's host and an Alabama alum, tried to question her about what she had seen and heard. She had no idea so he explained it, but his parting shot at her was, "My God, you're a graduate of Williams College and know nothing about the most famous opera in the world, and a lowly Alabama grad has to explain it to you. Incredible."

Dan Benton, Fairhope

Trust the system, not the (m)asses

I suspect most of us have recently learned more than we ever wanted to know about the electoral process in this country. I vaguely remember the elector appointment controversy surrounding Gore/Bush in 2000 but "rigged" primaries have somehow avoided real scrutiny.

It seems obvious the populist segments of both parties have now identified what they consider to be fundamentally flawed systems even though the origins of the Electoral College and the system as a whole can be traced back to the constitutional convention of 1787. Most of us never get past the first 10 amendments when studying the constitution so we have to dig deeper to try to find the current procedures — they're there (like it or not).

Suffice to say, the popular vote defers to that of the Electoral College, where the numbers of delegates ARE based on states' populations, based on the most recent census. So the vote of the Electoral College is a legitimate version of, or surrogate for, the popular vote. The emergence of political parties with their rules, national and within each state, simply compounded the confusion and brought us to our current chaotic state.

The rules of both parties do not, in fact, seem truly democratic when scrutinized under current circumstances. The simple truth, however, is that the "founders" never intended that the popular vote would select the president and vice president, so the "anti-rigging" groups need to get over yourselves — assuming you really are constitutional conservatives.

I've been trying to explain this as best I can to my grandsons, one 15 and the other 22. It wasn't easy until it occurred to me to explain the status of the current popularly elected leaders of the state of Alabama. We have a governor threatened with impeachment for allegations of sexual improprieties, the speaker of the House of Representatives indicted on 23 counts of influence peddling for personal gain, and the elected chief justice of the state Supreme Court suspended from the bench for over-ruling the U.S. Supreme Court. I think that captures all three branches of government.

Why would anyone want the people who elected these three sterling choices to elect the president of the United States? Not me! I'll take my chances on imperfect but relatively well-informed "superdelegates" or party leadership any

George Crozier, Mohile

Michael Boulevard murder suspect in custody

By Jason Johnson

Authorities in Mobile were able to make a quick arrest in a murder that occurred on Michael Boulevard over the weekend. According to the Mobile Police Department, reports of a shooting on the 3800 block of Michael Boulevard May 22 led to the discovery of a deceased male who was later identified as 30-year-old Eddie Drummond Jr.

Drummond's body was discovered in a parking lot in the area, where police say he appeared to have been shot several times. Drummond was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The following day, police located and arrested 33-year-old James Alvin Hubbard and charged him with Drummond's murder. According to Mobile Metro Jail records, Hubbard, who is from Mississippi, has no previous charges in Mobile County on his record. As of May 24, Hubbard was still in police custody in Mobile.

It's still unclear whether Hubbard knew his victim, and police have yet to give any indication of a motive for the murder.

'Reckless behavior' cited in May 18 shooting death

According to police, the May 18 death of 40-year old Carlos Allen was investigated as an accident.

Officers with the Mobile Police Department say Allen, who was found deceased in a vehicle on Williams Street, died from a gunshot wound to the neck. According to police, there were witnesses who were in the vehicle with Allen when he was shot, and those interviewed claimed Allen was "handling a weapon carelessly when he was shot."

Though no conclusions have been reached, the investigation indicates Allen may have shot himself. Police officials also cited "reckless behavior" on Allen's part as the cause of death in the case.

No one has been charged with any crime in the shooting, but MPD spokesperson Terence Perkins said the case will be presented to a Mobile County grand jury.





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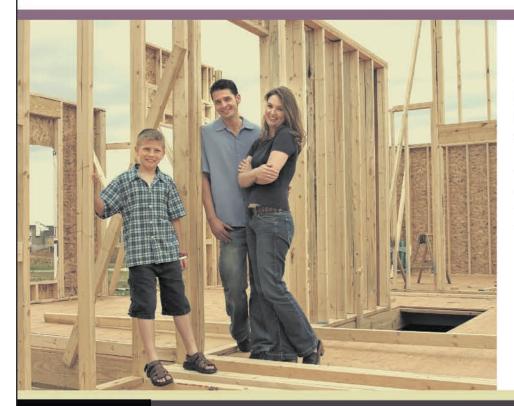








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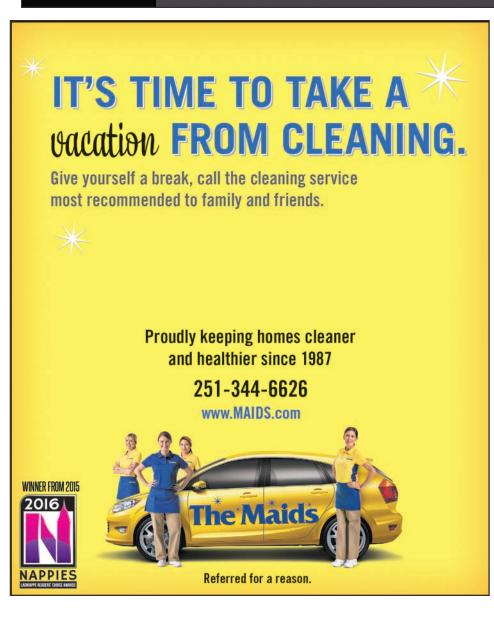
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MCPSS announces second round of school closings

BY JASON JOHNSON/REPORTER | jason@lagniappemobile.com

iting dwindling student populations, the Mobile County school board voted May 24 to close two of the district's schools and relocate students to nearby facilities within the district.

The move is part of a \$2.5 million school improvement plan announced last month that caused major shakeups at Denton Middle School and Scarborough Middle School and solidified the permanent closure of Brazier Elementary School.

While schools officials say the closings will benefit students, some parents, alumni and at least one board member aren't happy about the changes or how they were proposed. A decision to close two more schools was approved at a May 24 meeting, but was only revealed to board members during a work session one day earlier — in an item that wasn't even placed on the agenda. As schools finish the academic year, the move also leaves little time before the changes take effect in August.

Most recently, the board voted to relocate students at Mae Eanes Middle School to Williamson High School, under the new name Williamson Middle Grades Preparatory Academy. Eanes, which had back-to-back appearances on Alabama's list of "failing schools" in 2015 and 2016, has seen its population drop significantly in the last decade.

In a news release sent out ahead of the vote, Rena Philips, director of communications for the Mobile County Public School System, wrote that both schools would benefit from the merger.

'The proposal will strengthen the curriculum at both schools, which have suffered from declining enrollment over the last decade," Philips wrote. "And it will allow the district to add new programs that would benefit all students, including art, music, engineering, technology and career and technical education."

According to Philips, the merger would also "increase the

rigor and relevance" of academic programs in all grades. This district is also allocating extra funding to provide "signing bonuses" in hopes of attracting highly qualified teachers for math and science, positions that "have been hard to staff at Williamson

Additionally, MCPSS plans to enhance student support and safety services by adding mentoring and intervention programs as well as a full-time school resource officer.

As for the age differences among the students, which the district has cited as a concern in previous school mergers, Phillips said measures would be taken to ensure interactions between middle school and high school students are limited.

"Students in grades 6-8 will attend classes in a designated wing," the release said. "They will arrive and leave school separately from the high school students, and they will eat during separate lunch waves."

According to state records, Eanes recorded 764 students in 2006, but only 264 were enrolled last year. Similarly, Williamson's student population has been cut in half in the same time period, dropping from 1,113 to 573 in 2015.

Several county schools have shown declining enrollment figures, especially those in the eastern half of the district closest to downtown Mobile. Eanes in particular faces demographic challenges as several neighborhoods in the school's zone — some of which include public housing — are likely to be impacted by the Mobile Housing Board's \$750 million redevelopment project in

Last fall, Eanes was the center of a debate on what some claimed to be racial disparities between predominately black schools and predominately white schools in the system.

Those concerns were first brought up after a scathing report

from the Mobile County Health Department found mold and mildew, water damage, "soiled patient beddings" in the nurse's area, a dishwasher that wasn't being utilized and "visible signs of insects and rodents" in the school's cafeteria and other violations.

Though the system immediately addressed those health issues after they were made public, there were rumors at the time that Eanes would soon be closing permanently, forcing the school's nearly 100 percent African-American student body to relocate.

This week those rumors proved true, but school officials maintain that merging the schools will make both programs stronger.

One benefit, according to the system's news release, would be that Mae Eanes students would get an opportunity to join a "pilot program" allowing middle school students to participate in Williamson's Signature Academy of Manufacturing, Engineering and Entrepreneurship.

Available at all 12 of the district's high schools, Signature Academies put students on a dedicated path based on their educational or occupational interests with specializations in industries such as health care, aerospace, law and many others.

In the same meeting this week, board members approved plans to close Belsaw-Mt. Vernon School and move its students to North Mobile County Middle School, Belsaw, which has served students in kindergarten through 5th grade, has managed to stay off the state's list of failing schools, but faces enrollment issues similar to those of Mae Eanes.

According to state data, there are currently just 98 students at Belsaw-Mt Vernon School which will now combine with the 473 students at North Mobile County Middle School.

So far, the district hasn't released details about what additional programs might be offered at the combined school, which will officially change its name to North Mobile County K-8 in August.





Crackdown on crawfish boils

BY DALE LIESCH/REPORTER | dale@lagniappemobile.com

rea bars without approved kitchens cannot continue to serve crawfish to patrons, according to the Mobile County Health Department.

Bars that serve crawfish must also have a kitchen permit and the crawfish cannot be cooked outside. However, the state regulations do not apply to fundraising events or churches, MCHD Director of Inspection Services Stephanie Woods Crawford said.

Allegedly, the regulations apply to the bars regardless of whether or not they charge for the crawfish because they advertise the boils and use them to attract customers to the establishments

"This would apply to any public, advertised sale or business," Crawford said, adding the regulations do not apply to other special events, because a special event is temporary and the permitting process requires a health inspection.

Crawford said in the statement the act of serving food to the public requires "sanitary facilities" for preparation and a sink to "wash your hands" and for "washing of cooking items."

"MCHD continues to protect the health and environment of Mobile County," Crawford said. "The MCHD inspectors will issue Notice of Violations to any establishment that does not possess the appropriate permit as outlined in Chapter 420-3-22, Alabama State Board of Health, Food Establishment Sanitation."

The cooking must be done inside, in a permitted kitchen. Some facilities that wish to serve the crawfish outside are allowed to do that, under certain circumstances.

"Even if it is a restaurant cooking crawfish." they cannot do it outside on the sidewalk." Director of MCHD's Prevention and Wellness Division

Kelly Warren said in a statement. "The food is exposed to the elements, to animals and insects, and to anything that could be dropped into the pot. Our inspectors will continue to review places that are cooking crawfish that are not permitted

Crawford said the latest advisory comes after complaints last week that Havley's Bar was disposing of used water down a storm drain. Crawford said health officials had met with bar owners and the Downtown Mobile Alliance last year and specifically asked them to stop dumping used crawfish boiling water down storm drains.

A manager for Hayley's Bar could not be reached for comment as of press time.

The group appeared to reach a compromise at the meeting. Crawford said. Bars would be allowed to cook the crawfish in a properly permitted kitchen. Officials suggested bars without kitchens should partner with local restaurants to prepare the food, or buy it already cooked.

"This is nothing new," Crawford said. "We've been out before and issued notices downtown."

Downtown Mobile Alliance spokeswoman Carol Hunter confirmed the meeting with bar owners and health officials. At the time, Hunter said, the bar owners all said they understood they couldn't dump the used water into the storm

"We didn't meet this year because it seemed to work well last year," Hunter said.

Hunter said she didn't know whether the crawfish crackdown would hurt bars. She said the boils are fun events and "bars must like doing it."

"It creates a lively scene outside bars when it happens," Hunter said. "As far as their bottom lines, they don't share that with us.'

Prichard patches bus service

BY DALE LIESCH/REPORTER | dale@lagniappemobile.com

to allow Comfort Coach to run two of the bus routes abandoned after funding to the WAVE transit system was cut last year. The move to cut more than \$700,000 from Mobile's general fund transfer to McDonald Transit resulted in all routes past downtown

he city of Prichard recently struck a deal

Prichard's federally funded hub being eliminated. Instead of allowing passengers to be stranded, Prichard has come up with a short-term solution, Mayor Troy Ephriam said.

As a condition of its business license, Comfort Coach provides one shuttle for free A route from the hub to Eight Mile and the crosstown route to the Whataburger in Chickasaw have been restored because of the move.

'The routes are pretty much packed," Ephriam said

Comfort Coach is not a new company, but had never worked in Prichard. Because of the early success, Ephriam said, an additional shuttle could be made available.

The route to Eight Mile begins service each day at 6:30 a.m. and stops at 6:40 p.m., according to a statement. There is a break from 10:20 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. The Eight Mile route makes a total of six stops, terminating at the Bill Clark Center. The Chickasaw route goes directly to Whataburger from the Prichard hub in a 10-minute trip, starting at 7:10 each weekday morning. The Chickasaw route ends at 7:55 p.m. each weekday

evening. On Saturdays the service begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 5:55 p.m.

The agreement with Comfort Coach is only temporary, as Prichard is working on a planning grant to help fund its own municipal transportation service, Ephriam said.

The cuts have hit the community hard, as evidenced by comments from a local Uber driver. The driver, who requested anonymity, said while he normally works part-time between Mobile Regional Airport and the downtown Mobile area, he recently began picking up pings from Prichard.

The driver said he picked up a man in Prichard headed to the megabus station at the GM&O building downtown. After speaking to the man on the ride over, he said he decided to not charge him.

The driver also declined charging a young mother and Wal-Mart employee headed to work. He estimated a charged ride would have cost her roughly two hours' wages.

"As an Uber driver, it's not good for us to decline rides and I don't want to make money off these people," he said. "I don't want to be the guy jamming these people."

The driver said he hopes the city can bring back WAVE at some point because he believes Prichard is an underserved area.

"People in Prichard are using the service to go to Mobile and it seems very onerous to cut them out," he said. "The people there always get the short end of the stick ...



Officials reshape AIUA wind insurance policies

BY ERIC MANN/REPORTER | eric@lagniappemobile.com

uring the gubernatorial campaign ahead of the 2010 statewide election, the Baldwin County-based Homeowners Hurricane Insurance Initiative invited seven candidates to meet with founder Michelle Kurtz and members to discuss what they called "skyrocketing" homeowners insurance rates for Coastal Alabama residents.

One of those candidates, Robert Bentley, met Kurtz and HHII members at a coffee shop in Daphne to discuss the issues ahead of his eventual election.

At a May 18 news conference at the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center in Spanish Fort, now-Gov. Bentley announced major changes to the way insurance policies are written in Mobile and Baldwin counties, recalling a promise he said he made to address Coastal Alabama insurance premiums during his time in office.

At the news conference, Bentley called HHII a "grassroots, bulldog group.'

"We talked about this problem that affects so many people who cannot afford their homes sometimes because their homeowners insurance is so high," Bentley said of the coffee shop meeting. "These are not people who are wealthy or have homes on the coast itself, these are people who live all over the county. These are the people who keep Mobile and Baldwin counties going. They are the average working people, and they are retirees, who have suffered so much because of homeowners insurance.

Since 2007, HHII has pressed state and local elected officials to act on the problem, which stems from the fact that homeowners in Mobile and Baldwin counties typically pay \$500 more per homeowners wind insurance policy annually than their neighbors with similar homes upstate.

"That's how you get things done, you just keep at it," Bentley said of HHII. "They have worked so hard, because they represent the average person in this area. They represent the people who really work hard in this area to make things better.

Among the solutions Bentley presented was an agreement between the Alabama Department of Insurance and the Alabama Insurance Underwriters Association that will reduce current actual cash value policy rates by 5 percent in Gulf-front homes and 15 percent in all other zones in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

The plan will also reduce current replacement cost value policy rates by 18 percent in Gulf-front zones and by 27 percent in all other zones. The plan will take effect June 1.

According to a fact sheet released to media, the "vast majority" of AIUA policyholders — 25,000 out of approximately 30,000 will benefit from the coverage enhancements. The AIUA's coverage area extends to Mobile and Baldwin counties up to the

The AIUA was formed in the 1970s as a "last resort" insurer for homeowners unable to find coverage in the private market. Current policyholders pay for depreciated-cost insurance, which means it may not provide a check for full coverage of losses. According to its own marketing materials, the AIUA provides basic, no-frills coverage at rates that are generally higher than the average rates offered in the private market for a policy providing broad coverage options.

Under the new plan, AUIA plans will be converted from actual cash value policies into replacement cost value policies, which will automatically include additional living expense coverage and ordinance and law coverage to provide funds to help repair homes damaged by storms in line with current building codes. The AIUA will also offer deductibles of up to 10 percent to each policyholder.

Kurtz and HHII's efforts since 2007 led to last year's creation of the Coastal Insurance Working Group, a committee tasked by Bentley with finding solutions to the coastal insurance "crisis." The CIWG released a formal report to the governor in January detailing five ways the group believes the state can move to lower insurance costs for homeowners.

The report found that between 2005 and 2015 the average coastal homeowners insurance premium increased by 137 percent. On the other hand, premiums increased by just 36 percent in locations upstate.

Legislation was introduced in February that would have used the CIWG report's findings to convert the AIUA to a nonprofit

entity and exempt it from paying insurance premium taxes and other license and privilege taxes. It would have lowered premium costs by authorizing the entity to assess policyholders in the event of excess losses instead of charging high premiums up front based on each year's hurricane prediction models.

The bill failed to pass during the regular session, but Deputy Insurance Commissioner Charles Angell said a non-legislative compromise is better than a legislative mandate.

"A voluntary solution is always better than a legislative one because of unintended consequences," Angell said. "We don't know what those are yet, but because this is a voluntary solution, we can correct for that. If this was a legislative solution we would have to wait another year until the next session to try to change the statute. A voluntary agreement is just always better.

Some coastal insurance agents such as Bob Walsh have compared the CIWG report, and now the governor's plan, to a government-run cost-sharing scheme akin to the federal Affordable Care Act. This week, Walsh said the AIUA should be a last resort, but the governor's plan will make coastal homeowners

"The problem with this approach to the wind pool is basic," Walsh said this week. "They want the state, through AIUA, to be the first insurer for coastal homeowner insurance instead of using the approach used by all the remaining coastal states — that is, being the insurer of last resort.'

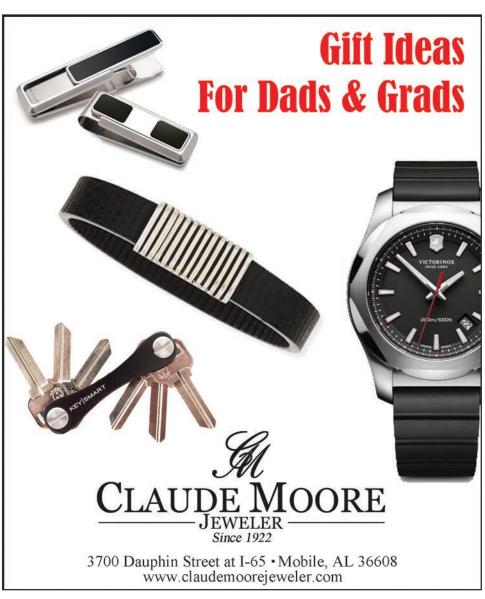
Bob Groves, the AIUA manager, encouraged homeowners to explore their options when seeking affordable wind insurance

"Hopefully they will be able to find affordable prices with broad coverage in the admitted markets, but if they are not able to do that and they want to come to the AIUA, we welcome them to fill out an application," Groves said.

For Kurtz and HHII, the next step is a series of meetings with organizers and officials from other coastal states in order to discuss expanding the new AIUA model to a "coastal band" of insurance coverage.











Councilman shot in South African bus ambush

BY DALE LIESCH/REPORTER | dale@lagniappemobile.com

he Mobile City Council on Tuesday honored a colleague injured in a weekend robbery of a South African tour group Councilors, council staff and city staff, including Mayor Sandy Stimpson, wore white lapel ribbons in support of District 3 representative C.J. Small, who was shot in the face Saturday when the tour bus in which he was riding in Johannesburg, South Africa, was ambushed by robbers.

Small was listed in stable condition and has been transferred to a private hospital, according to a statement released Monday afternoon by Raymond Bell, the family's attorney.

"With the cooperation and the assistance of many friends and supporters both in Johannesburg and here in Alabama, Mr. Small was recently transported to a private hospital and is receiving the best of care, as he awaits the opportunity to return home," the statement read. "He is in stable condition and both his short- and long-term prognoses are positive."

At the meeting, councilors voiced support for Small and his constituents. Councilman Levon Manzie and Councilman Fred Richardson also offered to handle the needs of the residents of District 3 until Small is able to return.

During a pre-conference meeting, Councilman John Williams joked he might lose track of the meeting without the help of Small, who normally sits beside him.

"He normally tells me when to pay attention," Williams joked. "If you see me and I'm not paying attention, it's just that I'm missing C.J.'

In his remarks at Tuesday's meeting, Stimpson said he was also praying for Small's "speedy recovery."

Councilors and others also signed a board with his picture and well wishes attached.

On Sunday, county spokeswoman Nancy Johnson released a statement on behalf of the County Commission wishing Small well in his recovery.

"County officials are saddened by the incident and praying for both the councilman and his family and for a speedy recovery and return home," the statement read in part.

Small was in Johannesburg for a conference of the South African Funeral Directors and Morticians Association. It is unclear whether any other conference members were aboard the bus



ACCORDING TO REPORTS, COUNCILMAN CJ SMALL WAS SHOT WHEN A TOUR BUS HE WAS RIDING ON WAS ROBBED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Small at the time of the incident. An email to the SAFDMA was not returned as of press time.

Small's family is working with U.S. officials to get him home as soon as possible, according to the statement. The statement specifically thanked Sen. Jeff Sessions' office, Congresswoman Terri Sewell, as well as members of the Alabama House and Senate for working with South African officials.

"Additional gratitude is given to the Consulate General of the United States and everyone else that has assisted Mr. Small and his family during this time," the statement read.

Details and additional information on the actual attack are scarce. Two different spokespersons within the State Department could only confirm the department was "aware of reports" of the incident.

We are aware of reports regarding a tour bus carjacking incident in Johannesburg," read an email from Niles Cole, with the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

"We take our obligation to assist U.S. citizens abroad seriously.'

Drew Bailey, a State Department spokesman, couldn't add any further information, citing privacy laws.

In business from the meeting, the council approved more repairs for the City of Mobile, Alabama Cruise Terminal ahead of Carnival's return next year. The board approved a \$116,930 contract with ADELTE Ports and Maritime for corrective works on the seaport passenger boarding bridge. The council also approved a \$13,400 contract with Thompson Engineering for mooring at the cruise terminal.

The council also approved a \$641,129 contract with Sunset Contracting, Inc. for Bolton Branch Creek channel repairs from University Boulevard to Azalea Road.

The council held a public hearing on the adoption of amendments to the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code, which would allow the Bloomberg Innovation Team to better handle blighted or open structures in the future.

Executive Director Jeff Carter told councilors the amendment would be "another tool in the toolbox" for his team and would be "more measured than demolition, but more effective than ticketing.'

The resolution the council could vote on as early as next week would streamline the legal process involved in fixing blighted structures. Instead of being forced to take an owner to court over an abandoned home that simply needs to be boarded up or repaired, the resolution would allow the city to make the needed repairs and then charge the owner or future owner through a lien on the property.

According to a statement from Stimpson's office, the move would reduce resolution time for these types of structures from two years to between one and three months.

Audit indicates turnaround at Bayou La Batre Housing Authority

BY JON COXWELL/CONTRIBUTING WRITER

he Bayou La Batre Housing Authority held a special meeting on Tuesday, May 17, voting to release its 2014 audit.

The audit shows that in 2014, the Safe Harbor subdivision was in the black \$39,414.96 — the first time it hasn't lost money since 2010.

Being faced with heavy scrutiny in the past, the BLBHA made several changes. 2014 was a year of many "firsts" for the board, including a new executive director, new rental rates and new application background checks

The Safe Harbor housing development was built in 2009 in response to housing needs after Hurricane Katrina and consists of 100 FEMA-funded houses. In 2011 the Housing Authority sank into a debt of \$27,115.21. The following year that grew to a staggering \$124,426.72, even with government grants of more than \$100,000 coming in during the period

Executive Director Virginia Huddleston attributes the turnaround to persistence and all of the board members

"This is just good old-fashioned hard work on everybody's part on a day-to-day basis," she said.

When Huddleston began her position at Safe Harbor she resorted to a "back to the basics" strategy. She began to collect overdue rent and cut expenses. In 2013 there was a reported \$49,000 due in past rent, and she managed to collect \$47,000 of that in just a two-week period.

Huddleston said they have been faced with huge challenges, including changing the rental rates in 2011 when the grant money ran out. The rent was changed from an income-based rate to a flat rate, which is still lower than most federally financed housing properties.

They made up the debt in other ways too, such as saving money on insurance expenses. The insurance rates dropped from \$140,758.91 in 2013, to \$108.451.09 in 2014. They also moved their office on site, eliminating a rental expense.

All expenses are detailed in the audit for 2014, which contrasts greatly to previous years where the records lacked specifics. Many funds were lumped together in 2009 and 2010, bringing accusations that the board was not being sufficiently transparent.

"We're trying to break down and itemize exactly where all [the money] is going," Huddleston said.

The lease is due to renew in November, but residents and the board seem pleased with their current situation. Signs saying "We Support the Housing Authority" line the streets in front yards, and board members expressed their appreciation for the residents at Safe Harbor.

The 2015 audits are expected to be ready mid-July, and Huddleston said they are expected to be positive



SAFE HARBOR ESTATES AND LANDING CONSISTS OF 100 FEMA **FUNDED HOUSES IN BAYOU LA BATRE.**

Controversial Point Clear rezoning back on the table

BY ERIC MANN/REPORTER | eric@lagniappemobile.com

controversial request by property owners in Point Clear seeking to open a small grocery store in the Point Clear Historic District will come back before the Baldwin County Commission in June.

In March, George and Amy Spottswood previously asked the County Commission to consider rezoning less than a half acre of property at the northeast corner of Scenic U.S. 98 and Old Marlow Road from residential single family to B-2 commercial — a broad zoning designation regulating everything from small coffee shops to convenience stores and nightclubs. However, the request was pulled from the commission's agenda in March when it became clear it would not pass.

Now, the Spottswoods have resubmitted the application, asking for a more restrictive zoning designation, the Limited Business District, which is more in line with small, neighborhood grocers. The commission will hold a public hearing on the request at its June 21 regular meeting in Bay Minette.

In March, the commission created the Limited Business District zoning designation in order to accommodate requests similar to the one submitted by the Spottswoods. It is intended to provide a designation for people who want to start a business without opening the door to big box stores, liquor stores and nightclubs in areas near neighborhoods and historic districts.

Planning Director Vince Jackson said the Planning Commission voted 3-2 in April to recommend approval of the resubmitted request, and planning staff also supports approval. However, he acknowledged the request remains controversial.

"This was controversial before and it remains controversial," Jackson said. "We knew it would be. This has been a difficult case from the beginning. You always know someone's not going to be happy with what you do, but we do feel like the LB designation can work in this location."

George Spottswood told commissioners he believes it is his right to do what he wishes with the property he owns. He also said because he and his wife live near the subject property to be rezoned they have a stake in making sure the area keeps its historical sig-

"We take great pride in the historical significance in our area, and our house was one of four that were built in the early 1900s as Broadbeck and Zundel homes," Spottswood said. "We've gone to great pains to improve upon the historical significance of our home and the area. We hope to enhance and sustain the historical significance of the area. We will promote that, because that's our intent."

Some nearby residents, including members of the Point Clear Property Owners Association, are concerned that if the Spottswood zoning request is granted other property owners in the district will follow suit and change the residential nature of the area.

There has also been some debate over how many letters have been submitted in support of and in opposition to the request.

Commissioner Chris Elliott said the commission does not view its role in approving or rejecting a rezoning request as a popularity

"While I appreciate the input, I am not keeping some sort of tally sheet for and against," Elliott said. "I certainly do appreciate the input from constituents about how they think about the issues, but we need to look at the quality of their arguments, not the amount of those arguments.'

Jackson echoed Elliott's statement, but said anyone with concerns is welcome to come to the public hearing in June.

"We welcome all comments, but we don't view it as a popularity contest," Jackson said. "We try to be up front about that. We do keep a count, but we are not really counting yes and no, and we have been aware from the beginning that some of the correspondence is not coming from Planning District 26 because we see the addresses. But that isn't really necessary, because it appears that it has been pretty evenly split on both sides."

One of the residents who has been vocal in her opposition to the request is Elizabeth Schramm, who told commissioners she is mostly concerned about the number of nearby residents who are against the change, not the total number. The Planning Commission has received letters representing both sides of the issue from inside and outside of Planning District 26.

"We aren't really talking about numbers, we are talking about how many people who live nearby are opposed because they are the ones who will be affected the most," Schramm said.

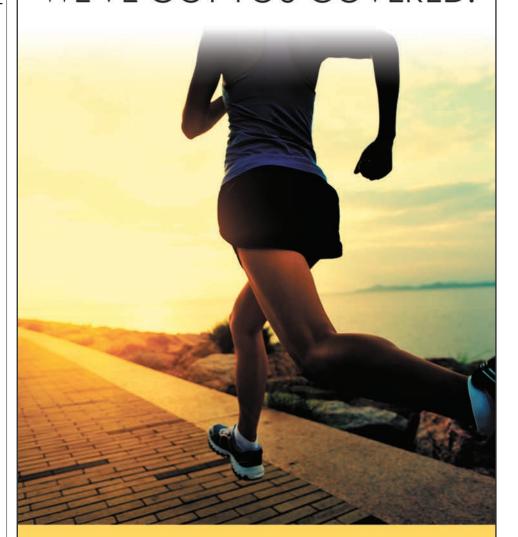
In a May 18 letter to Jackson and commissioners. Sarah Chapman expressed concerns about the "domino effect" she fears will occur if the commercial rezone request is granted.

"There are already vacant business properties right nearby," Chapman's letter reads. "Why would you add more, and risk opening the floodgates to other people trying to make that beautiful stretch of historic homes into a commercial corridor? I know each application needs to be considered individually, and I understand that a switch to B2 zoning has already been denied, but a LB designation serves the same purpose — and I feel very strongly that we need to protect that area from further encroachment.'

In support, Lakewood Subdivision resident Doug Terreson said the commercial rezone appears to be the best use for the Spottswood property, which he drives by every day to and from work

"A higher-quality food store fills an important niche for residents in this area, as none exists today," Terreson said. "When considering the significant need for the commercial purpose indicated by the Spottswoods, that the proposed business would be highly complementary to existing businesses, and that this property has served substantially more time in commercial than in residential use; we strongly support this rezoning request."

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What pasties on murals, crawfish and expungements have in common

BY ROB HOLBERT/MANAGING EDITOR | rholbert@lagniappemobile.com

t wasn't so many years ago the owners of the Zebra Lounge on Dauphin Island Parkway found themselves putting pasties over the nipples of tribeswomen painted on the wall of their bar.

For those who have led a more pious life, pasties are what exotic dancers, or "strippers" as they are called by less well-bred individuals, place over their nipples in order to adhere to certain "blue" laws governing what may and may not take place in an establishment where alcohol is served. And nearly 100 percent of the time a particular portion of that law addresses the state of undress of real live women with actual nipples.

But in the case of the Zebra Lounge, art met bureaucracy, and art lost. Officers of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board or ABC — felt the decades-old mural depicting a tribal scene that fits the Zebra's safari theme violated state law. So pasties were added to the mural

I won't go through the lurid descriptions of things that can't be shown anywhere a liquor license is required. But suffice it to say naked tribal murals are not mentioned specifically. Rather, things are open to interpretation.

And there's the problem with laws - often they are generally open to interpretation. And, at least in Alabama, they are often enforced in haphazard ways that sometimes leave me dizzy.

Over the past few days Mobilians have been outraged by the Health Department cracking down on the local rite of passage that is crawfish boiled and served up for free at area bars. Apparently it's been a front-burner issue for some time, with the Health Department and downtown bar owners and crawfish chefs coming to some agreement about how it would be handled. But after a particular establishment continued pouring used crawdad water down storm drains, the Health Department moved in.

There has been much gnashing of teeth over this, with some patrons opining that it is akin to losing Mardi Gras. Perhaps that's a little bit of hyperbole, but you get the drift. Mobilians LOVE crawfish boils, and many bars have found serving free mudbugs a great way to draw a crowd of people who like to pinch the tails and suck the heads, then wash them down with adult beverages.

So while it's easy to understand the Health Department's duty to protect people from eating in nasty, filthy restaurants, it's kind of hard to envision a boiling pot of crawfish serving as a major conductor of foodborne illness. Frankly the bathrooms in some of these places appear to be a more likely health concern.

In fact, when we asked, there hasn't been a complaint that someone became sick from eating bar-boiled crawdads. But from now on things are going to be a little different, and some of those establishments without a proper kitchen may be back to serving free peanuts.

I'm not saying bars and restaurants should be allowed to pour crawfish water all over the streets of downtown or to serve the tiny ditch lobsters in a dirty ashtray, but it seems like a situation in which a longstanding state law was suddenly enforced to stop a behavior rather than to protect people.

Slight change in topic ..

Speaking of state laws being enforced in a haphazard way, the plot continues to grow thicker concerning the 2014 expungement law passed in Montgomery. Regular readers may be familiar with reporter Eric Mann's coverage of the arrest of investigative reporter John Caylor in Daphne two months ago for publishing the expunged arrest record of a local attorney working as a clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Ginny Granade.

We've reported pretty extensively about Caylor being jailed once and then having another warrant for his arrest issued even though he removed the records. I won't go back over all the details other than to say he is still on the run and the law is still — I believe — a wholly unconstitutional prior restraint that runs the risk of having the state government dictating what newspapers can or cannot write.

But another exciting angle to the story is that the very state government that passed this dumb law also isn't living up to its end of the deal. In addition to criminalizing the publication of actual legal records, the law also requires the Alabama Office of Courts to collect and maintain data about expungements, in case the Legislature should ever ask for such info.

When we called asking for information such as what types of crimes have been expunged, what types have been denied and how many overall expungements there've been, AOC just basically said, "Oopsie." Seems they've been keeping none of that info — at least that's what

And if that's not crazy enough, the only information they said they could possibly get us was a simple raw number of overall expungements since the law passed, but they wanted us to pay them \$500 to do it, in order to cover their research costs — research that BY LAW they should have already done!

So here are the ironies so far:

A lawyer has a reporter arrested for publishing his expunged records on a website because he doesn't want people to see them, thus igniting a First Amendment battle in which coverage of the story brings far more attention to his arrest record than it ever would have had he just left it alone. And now the fact that no one has been keeping track of how many expungements there have been, or what exactly is being expunged, creates a situation in which the media should be investigating just exactly whose criminal records are being wiped clean. Which is exactly the opposite of what the people who passed this law wanted.

How is anyone supposed to know whether only the prescribed infractions are being expunged if the state isn't keeping records? I guess we're just supposed to trust that people with money and influence aren't taking advantage?

Keeping up with the ways state laws are often manipulated — or ignored when it's convenient is a full-time job in Alabama, but it's one worth doing if you don't want pasties on your crawfish and censorship in your newspapers.

THEGADFLY



Black market crawfish dealers hit the streets after the health department's crackdown.

Time for pomp and circumstance

BY ASHLEY TRICE/EDITOR | ashleytoland@lagniappemobile.com

Editor's Note: As Co-publisher Ashley Trice feverishly helps count Nappie votes, she offers a previously published column for all of you recent graduates this week. "Hidden Agenda" will be back to its regularly-scheduled programming in the June 2 issue of Lagniappe.

raduation ... the time of year when old people like me want to tell recent graduates how and what they should do with their lives. It's a time-honored tradition generally ignored by said young people, including yours truly back in the day. And in actuality, you have to make all of your own mistakes and learn all of this stuff for yourself, but I am going to tell you anyway, because well, I'm a columnist and I need a column for

1. Travel, travel, travel. After we graduated from college, my best friend and I worked all summer slinging shrimp po' boys and burgers at the beach so we could finance our backpacking trip through Europe. It was a grueling two months of sleeping in hostels - some awesome, some creepy — and trying to find places to wash our limited amount of clothing so we wouldn't stink up some of the most beautiful museums and sights in the world. (Though I can report some parts of the world do not seem to frown upon body odor.)

But it was also two of the most amazing months of my life because I saw how the world was so much bigger than the relatively tiny bubble I had been living in up until that point. Sure, you can watch endless hours of the Travel Channel or Anthony Bourdain traversing the globe eating weird food to get a glimpse, but there is just something about seeing, smelling, tasting, touching, hearing the sounds and breathing the air (fresh or otherwise) of a foreign land firsthand that can't be replicated. And now is the time to do this. Once you start your career, get hitched and/or have kids, your windows of opportunity start to close on getting enough time to take such a trip.

- 2. Be a risk taker. No, you don't have to jump out of an airplane or off the side of the mountain to be considered one. Maybe you choose the job that makes less money but you are more passionate about, or head down the path everyone is telling you is the wrong one but your gut is telling you otherwise (unless your gut is telling you to become the next Pablo Escobar — then you should probably listen to everyone else), but otherwise do what feels right, which may not necessarily be what makes the most sense to everyone else but makes perfect sense to you ... at the time, at least. (See #3 for more info on when your gut lies to you.)
- 3. Even if you made the wrong choice, it may lead you to the right one. After the trek through Europe, I came home and immediately started looking for my first "real job" with my communications degree, feeling certain I would get one in a month, maybe two ... tops. When I didn't find one immediately, I panicked and figured I needed to go back to school and change direction. Without any knowledge of the industry whatsoever, I decided I wanted to become a

screenwriter. So I applied to the University of Texas' program for such in Austin and moved out there. Almost immediately after entering the program, I knew I had made a huge mistake and that was most certainly not what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I dropped out and moved back to Mobile, feeling like a failure and sort of like I was just drifting.

But the move proved inspirational in other ways. While I was in Austin, I became a huge fan of their alternative weekly, The Austin Chronicle, and when I moved back here I kept wondering why Mobile didn't have a paper like it. Rob and I began talking about the possibility of starting one. Eventually Lagniappe was born and 13 years later, here we are. I often wonder if I had just stuck around and tried to find that first "real job" for a little longer, and had done so, where I would be today. You never know, but my point is sometimes it takes a wrong choice to lead you to the right one.

4. Your partner for life. Your heart is probably going to get broken into a thousand pieces at some point in your life and I say it's a good thing. Make yourself a playlist of horribly sad songs and wallow in it until you can't wallow anymore. I always preferred to listen to my break-up mix CD while curled up in the fetal position on the kitchen floor - you know, for dramatic effect. But then you eventually have to get off the linoleum and get back out there.

You'll always remember the first night you go out and feel good again without thinking of what's his-or-her-name. It's the night you know you are going to be OK and also the night you know no matter how painful a break-up can feel, you will get through it and be able to move on. And this will probably happen more than once and that's OK too.

Surround yourself with good friends along the way and eventually you will meet the one who is incapable of shattering your heart, who is your constant source of support, not of ridicule or rivalry, who loves you for your strengths and in spite of your weaknesses. And you will suddenly realize this is why I had to cry so many tears and listen to "I Can't Make You Love Me If You Don't" a thousand times, so I could get to the person who does. And all those nights on the kitchen floor will seem totally worth it.

5. And now for the most cliché piece of advice of all: Really don't sweat the small stuff. I am a natural-born worrier, so I have to remind myself of this one all the time. There have been times I've almost given myself an ulcer fretting over some situation that seemed like a really huge deal at the time. When I think back. I feel ridiculous I wasted so much time doing this.

Sure you have to assess situations and take action, but don't let them consume you. Make best friends with another cliché saying, "This too shall pass." Because it will. And "it" will be replaced with something else, and then something else and then something else.

That's just life and worrying about a situation rarely changes the outcome of it. Trust me, I learned the hard way on that one



Did I do that?

BY LEE HEDGEPETH/CONTRIBUTING WRITER

here's a responsibility crisis in Montgomery, not just an ethical one. Headlines of late, including Lagniappe's cover story from last week, bring our state's political turmoil to the forefront

Alabama's top judge, Chief Justice Roy Moore, has been suspended from office for violations of judicial ethics canons and faces possible removal from the bench for the second time in his career. The Speaker of the Alabama House, Rep. Mike Hubbard (R-Auburn), is currently on trial for 23 felony counts of ethics violations. Gov. Robert Bentley is facing multiple ethics complaints, intense media scrutiny, and federal and state investigations after he admitted to making inappropriate comments to a former female advisor, but denied a physical relationship, despite leaked recordings of Bentley's phone conversations suggesting otherwise.

In all of this upheaval on Goat Hill, these top politicians have shirked their responsibility to the public by refusing to engage the facts of their own malfeasance. Instead, the elite in Montgomery partake liberally in political amnesia and blamespreading, posturing themselves into a position from a television sitcom: Did I do that?

The "did I do that" attitude seems all too often standard, particularly for the governor's office.

First, on the very surface, there's the big, obvious omission on the part of Gov. Bentley: his relationship with his former senior aide, Rebekah Caldwell Mason. Former Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Secretary Spencer Collier and others claim that a nonprofessional relationship between Mason and Bentley had been covered up for years before it came to light, with recordings of the two — a source of paranoia for the governor — always potentially floating around.

Then, though, there are the little things that, over time, add up to an administration with an Urkel attitude.

When it was revealed Bentley and Mason attended a Celine

Dion concert in Las Vegas together during a trip for the Republican Governors' Association's conference, questions were raised about whether Bentley had shrugged off his security to participate. Collier said in a statement, "The governor's request for no security and then lessened security was highly unusual and against protocol. Again, this further demonstrates that the governor's actions and behavior made the job[s] of ALEA's Protective Services Troopers and Special Agents very difficult and often put them in awkward situations."

In response, Bentley's office released what seems to be a carefully crafted statement that doesn't specifically deny the allegations, but does say security stayed with the governor in Las Vegas and was present for his meals:

"The governor, his security and traveling staff all stayed at the same hotel and on the same floor," the statement reads. "He did attend a Celine Dion concert with his traveling staff during one of his free evenings at the conference. The concert tickets were paid for personally by the governor. Security was with the governor at every meal he ate."

Then, only after state media scrutinized the funding of the trip to Las Vegas itself, the Republican Governor's Association wired Bentley's campaign fund more than \$11,000 to cover the trip. That move itself may not have helped, though, because according to campaign finance experts such as Tom Scovill, the RGA's "reimbursement," which came months after Bentley's campaign ended, was illegal.

"Although Bentley can spend campaign funds on 'expenses of the office held,' he may only accept contributions for the purpose of affecting the outcome of an election," Scovill told several press outlets after the donation was reported. "Spending campaign funds to attend the RGA conference is not a permissible expenditure because it was not an 'expense of the office held.' The contribution window closed 120 days after the election, in March 2015. Reimbursement is merely another name for 'contribution.'

Bentley is a campaign finance scofflaw."

The governor's rebuttal? He refused to comment.

Now, in more recent days, the governor's office has on a few more occasions taken up use of its favorite line: Did I do that?

In one interesting turn of events, Baldwin County officials sounded off at the governor when they realized the state had built a wall extending from a state-owned beach house in Gulf Shores across a public accessway to the beach. "It's a big deal to us," one official told local media at a news conference. Bentley's response? "I didn't build the wall," he said. "You can tell by my hands, I didn't build the wall. People make a big deal out of stuff that isn't a major issue. Everything will be fine.'

In another public relations hiccup for Bentley, many statewide media outlets have begun criticizing the governor's use of personal — instead of state — email, something many Republicans have criticized presidential candidate Hillary Clinton for doing during her time as secretary of state. Bentley's answer? You got it. "There's nothing being hidden" in his personal emails. I guess we should just take his (and Clinton's) word for it, right?

Finally, after years of hearing about "nondisclosure agreements" among top politicos in Montgomery, the governor's office, in compliance with an open records request, recently released so-called "NDAs" signed by 87 members of Bentley's staff and top advisors - with the exception of Rebekah Caldwell Mason - saying that the employees cannot reveal to the public any information they obtain from their position.

Bentley's reaction to criticism of these gag orders on some of the state's top officials? You guessed it.

"Did I do that?"

For the record, Bentley says he didn't do that. He claims his former chief of staff, Seth Hammett, began the practice of gagging employees. Ironically, we'll never know

Hammett, now out of office, was the first to sign away his right to speak.





That time Alabama almost bought the Florida Panhandle

BY JEFF POOR/COLUMNIST | jeffreypoor@gmail.com

he Florida Panhandle is called "Lower Alabama" by many, and might as well be. Alabama and Auburn regalia on automobiles outnumbers that of Florida and Florida State, half the region gets their television news from Mobile and the area's election results mimic those of the Birmingham suburbs more than Florida's more populous regions, including Miami, Orlando and Tampa.

For a moment in time in 1869, the Florida Panhandle was almost sold to Alabama.

Then-Alabama Gov. David Lewis offered the Sunshine State \$1 million for everything from where the Flora-Bama sits today to the Apalachicola River. And Florida almost took Alabama up on the offer.

In May 1869, three commissioners signed a cession agreement on behalf of the Alabama and Florida legislatures. Later that year, Panhandle residents actually got to weigh in on the matter — approving cession by a margin of 1,162 to 661 votes.

FOR A MOMENT IN TIME IN 1869, THE **FLORIDA PANHANDLE WAS ALMOST SOLD TO ALABAMA.**

Following the referendum, the cession effort stalled out in the Florida Legislature. During the 1870-71 session, the Florida House of Representatives passed language to go forward on the sale. The effort failed in the Florida Senate. Processionists rallied the effort again in 1873, but failed to muster enough enthusiasm. And that's why today West Florida remains part of Florida.

In the "woulda-coulda-shouldas" of history, the Panhandle purchase would have been a sweetheart deal for Alabama: a million bucks for roughly 5.7 million acres, which would have come out to be 17 cents an acre. In 2016, you probably couldn't get a single beachfront home on the Panhandle's coveted South Walton County on 30A beaches for \$1 million.

For the sake of comparison, it's not quite the deal the United States got for Alaska from the Russians at 2 cents an acre around the same time. At the time critics dubbed the deal Seward's Folly because Alaska was thought to be nothing but a wasteland — this was long before the discovery of the region's mineral wealth.

If you adjust for inflation, the price tag Alabama would have paid for West Florida would have been \$1.8 billion in 2016 dollars. Think of what they would have gotten if the deal had passed: all of the so-called Redneck Riviera, which includes nearly 200 miles of coastline and the ports of Pensacola, Panama City and Apalachicola.

One of the biggest benefits for Alabama from a sale would have been the coastal mineral riches. From off the shores of Brownsville, Texas, near the Mexico-U.S. border all the way

to the Florida/Alabama state line, oil rigs can be spotted all over the Gulf of Mexico.

Elected officials from Florida have been reluctant to allow drilling off its shores. Congress instituted a ban on offshore drilling within at least 125 miles of the Florida coast in 2006 that isn't set to expire until 2022. If Alabama had control of those shorelines, it's hard to imagine a similar ban would be in place, which could mean billions of dollars annually for the state's

The clincher for the public might have been what this million-dollar investment in the 1860s would have meant to high school recruiting for the football programs of University of Alabama and Auburn University. College football wouldn't come to the state for another 23 years at the time of the proposed sale, and was 50 years away from being popular in Florida.

Had there been foresight for that to be a consideration, many Alabama taxpayers probably would have given it a thumbs-up. What if

> Pensacola's Emmitt Smith and Fort Walton Beach's Danny Wuerffel ended up staying in-state and had gone to the University of Alabama? The rough patch Alabama fans endured in the late 1980s and early 1990s might not have been so bad and the University of Florida might not have been the juggernaut it was throughout the 1990s under Steve Spurrier.

Politically the state would have gained some influence in the House of Representatives. All of Florida's first

congressional district, currently represented by Republican Rep. Jeff Miller, and part of the state's second congressional district, currently represented by Democrat Rep. Gwen Graham, would be part of Alabama. So the state would have expanded its delegation from seven to eight or possibly nine.

One of the casualties might have been the closure of the military installations that have been a big part of the Panhandle's economy. Many Mobilians know how the closure of Brookley Air Force Base in the 1960s crushed the local economy. Many saw the Brookley closure as punishment for Alabama voters pulling the lever for Barry Goldwater instead of Lyndon Johnson during the 1964 presidential election. Florida went for Johnson, but if the territory had been in Alabama's hands, would U.S. Navy assets in and around Pensacola have survived closure? Would Eglin and Tyndall air force bases still be there?

More recently, the country could have been affected in an even bigger way. Without the Panhandle, Florida likely would have gone for then-Vice President Al Gore instead of George W. Bush. That would have probably meant President Al Gore in 2000 when all was said and done.

If that had happened, things almost certainly would be different today.

Then-Florida Gov. Harrison Reed didn't see \$1 million as the right price tag in 1869. What might have been enough? A \$1.5 million offer? And why didn't Alabama up the ante?

If they knew now what they didn't know then, it probably would have been a no-brainer



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Bay Minette lands \$1.5M investment, up to 70 jobs

BY RON SIVAK/COLUMNIST | business@lagniappemobile.com

he Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance recently announced Morganton Pressure Vessels has established a new 82,500-square-foot manufacturing facility at the former Citation Aluminum site at 2440 U.S. Highway 31 South in Bay Minette. David Dexter and Jay Roberds of NAI Mobile represented Morganton in the lease transaction and Wayne Cave with L.W. Cave Real Estate worked for the landlord.

The international firm will initially create 30 local jobs with an expectation of topping out at 70 employees when the facility is ramped up to full production. The business is the North American subsidiary of parent company Baglioni Group SPA, a compressed-air systems manufacturing group based in Novara, Italy, with 11 locations and 800 employees across Europe, North America and China.

"The city of Bay Minette is very excited to welcome Morganton Pressure Vessels to our community. They are an excellent company that produces a high-quality product and brings well-paying job opportunities for our citizens," Bay Minette Mayor Robert Wills said. "The city is dedicated to attracting, developing and expanding good industry in Bay Minette, and the availability of good jobs right here at home is the lifeblood for progress."

The company will initially invest \$1.5 million in the new Bay Minette property.

"Our new Bay Minette facility is ideal logistically. The area helps support our standards in quality and competitiveness, and the proximity to the market is a main point for our business success," Franco Tartaglino, president and CEO of Baglioni Group SPA, said. "Bay Minette is a key location for at least three of our divisions and is close to SPV and petrochemical industry customers, as well as to main seaports."

Commercial real estate moves

Olde Mobile Antiques recently purchased a 4,800-square-foot building located at 701 St. Louis St. in downtown Mobile. The property sits on approximately half an acre at the southwest corner of St. Louis Street and North Washington Avenue. The new owners plan to use the building for additional storage to accompany their

recently acquired property across the street from Olde Mobile Antiques' store relocation. Niki Coker and Jay Roberds of NAI Mobile handled the transaction.

Hamilton & Company recently assisted in the leasing of the former Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union building at 750 Downtowner Blvd. in Mobile. The 3,274-square-foot, third-floor office suite will be updated to meet the needs of its new tenant, the Mike Slocumb Law Firm.

According to the McAleer Tunstall Co., some 27,000 square feet of retail space was recently leased by Ollie's Bargain Outlet in the Oak Tree Plaza Shopping Center located at 7820 Moffett Road in Semmes. The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania-based bargain outlet chain was represented by Aaron Solomon and Charlie Sutherland of the Shopping Center Group.

Uncle Maddio's recently held a grand opening for a new 2,400-square-foot location at 1225 Satchel Paige Drive, Suite E106, in Mobile's McGowin Park. This is the third fast-casual, create-your-own pizza franchise to open locally. It is co-owned and operated by Mobile native Seth Hargett with several other partners who together own JUMP Restaurant Management. The eatery will include seating for more than 100 guests, have an outdoor patio with seating and employ up to 50 when fully operational.

Chef Pete Blohme recognized with ESGR military award

Chef Pete Blohme was recently honored with the Seven Seals Award given by the Alabama Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, in recognition of his support of those who serve in the Alabama National Guard and the U.S. Reserve Forces. The award is the second-highest honor given by ESGR.

"The ESGR Seven Seals Award was created by ESGR to publicly recognize American employers providing patriotic support and cooperation to their employees," Bill Kringel, Alabama ESGR state chair, said. "Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units."

Nicholas Bowen, veterans employment representative for the

Alabama Career Center Baldwin County, was among those who nominated Blohme for this award. Bowen noted that Panini Pete's restaurants have been a great source of employment for former active-duty veterans, members of the National Guard and members of the Reserve branches. During the award presentation, Blohme recognized all of the veterans currently working in his restaurants.

"To get special recognition for simply just trying to do the right thing was really cool. But to receive the award in this kind of fashion was very humbling," Blohme said. "To see all the active military, retired military and civil servants, and to hear Mayor [Sandy] Stimpson and Vice Admiral [William "Dean"] Lee speak was very inspiring. I was especially proud to have my father-in-law with me, who served in the Army as young man."

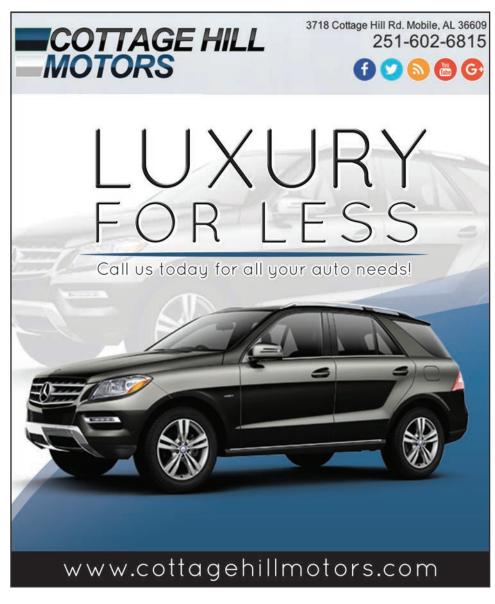
Hargrove named 2016 Integrator of the Year

Hargrove Controls + Automation received the Control System Integrators Association's 2016 Integrator of the Year award, which was recently presented to Matt Burton, operations leader of Hargrove Controls + Automation, at the annual CSIA Executive Conference in Puerto Rico.

The award recognizes a member company that has participated significantly in the advancement of the association and profession of control systems. Hargrove Controls + Automation is one of few multiservice automation groups in the country for safety systems, industrial IT and plant automation.

Since its inception in 2012, Hargrove's C+A team has grown to more than 80 control systems engineers and specialists across eight of Hargrove's 11 offices. The team consists of panel builders, instrumentation designers, programmers, certified process safety engineers and process control engineers specializing in DCS/PLC/SIS system integration.

"By teaming with Hargrove on both engineering design and automation, our clients are able to lower their risk, increase communication and planning from the start, as well as reduce change and complete their project goals quicker and at a better value. To be recognized on a national level from such a prestigious organization is a true honor for the Hargrove team," Burton said.









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2000 River Forest Dr.-Water front \$665,000 Stella Jackson 610-7031 Jamie Ison 454-2327



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Saisho, Chakli Diggs' newest, hits the mark

BY ANDY MACDONALD/CUISINE EDITOR | fatmansqueeze@comcast.net

■ SAISHO 455 DAUPHIN ST. **MOBILE 36602** 251-433-0376



had the pleasure of spending some time with a lovely couple just days before their wedding anniversary. Pete and Carol were on the verge of celebrating 30 years and some change together (which Pete jokingly says "have been 20 of the best years of Carol's life"), so a dinner on my dime seemed the least I could do. They have treated me to more than a few meals so I wanted to take them out for a big one.

I know they love NoJa and Mobile's rockstar chef Chakli Diggs, so I was sure they would be happy at his other restaurant, Saisho. This is Diggs' stab at a modern American gastropub inspired by Japanese cuisine with an aggressive menu served tapas style.

Saisho is in a building all too familiar to me. Since 1997 I have performed on the stage of what was Southside, then Soul Kitchen and later Alabama Music Box. To see the interior now is shocking. Someone had a great vision. The open-kitchen dining room is where the bar once stood while the horseshoe-shaped new bar is near where the soundboard

We snagged a table downstairs in front of what used to be the stage area and started with drinks. Pete ordered a Belgian draft known as Malheur (\$8) as Carol and I agreed to split a bottle of Campuget Rosé (\$32).

With drinks squared away we had but one problem: with a menu of 17 items we had to narrow it down. It's all small plates, so we staged it out three at a time. Round one began with Tonkatsu (\$13). Berkshire pork is cut to a thin fillet deep-fried with a panko crust and served over cabbage. This

We followed that up with Lamb Spare Ribs (\$13) and an order of Nagoya Style Fried Chicken (\$12). The Virginia lamb was pretty amazing. Coated in a grilled scallion barbecue sauce, I thought this could be the hero of the evening. Then I tried the chicken. It's just a single (but large) thigh, bone-in and twice-cooked with a homemade tare sauce. The sweet taste of this soy-based sauce made the dish.

We gathered ourselves and checked for any damage before we began round two.

Oysters 3 Way (\$15) sounded interesting. We had six

Photos | Daniel Anderson/Lagniappe

Saisho, the latest creation of NoJa's rockstar chef Chakli Diggs, serves modern American cuisine inspired by Japanese cooking with an aggressive menu served tapas style.

spats with three different sauces. Carol sat this one out as Pete and I put down the chopsticks and forks in favor of slurping them from the cup. Of the broiled miso, spicy yuzu and green garlic veloute, we both preferred the yuzu. Don't get the idea there was a great deal of heat, just flavor. These are but a taste, an experience, if you will. I love oysters the size of a quarter; when you take down three you won't feel like you've eaten very much, but you'll get a glimpse of some flavor personali-

The words "pork belly" get thrown around a lot these days. Of course I am all for this. So when we saw Belly of Local

I KNOW THEY LOVE NOJA AND MO-**BILE'S ROCKSTAR CHEF CHAKLI** DIGGS, SO I WAS SURE THEY WOULD BE HAPPY AT HIS OTHER RESTAURANT, SAISHO. THIS IS DIGGS' STAB AT A MODERN AMERICAN GASTRO-**PUB INSPIRED BY JAPANESE CUISINE WITH AN** AGGRESSIVE MENU SERVED TAPAS STYLE.

Red Wattle Pork (\$14) there was no skipping it. Crispy and tender, the best part of this was dipping it in the strawberry miso and sesame puree. It was worth the sacrifice.

Wok-Fried Veal Sweetbreads (\$12) were too much to pass up. It's not every restaurant in Mobile that serves sweetbreads. These tender bits were served with Brussels sprouts, orange, soy and chilies. Nothing about it was over the top. It was simply great. If you'd like to train your kids to appreciate organ meat, I suggest not telling them what it is, but let them give this a try. Pete isn't fond of sprouts prepared in any fashion. More for Carol and me.

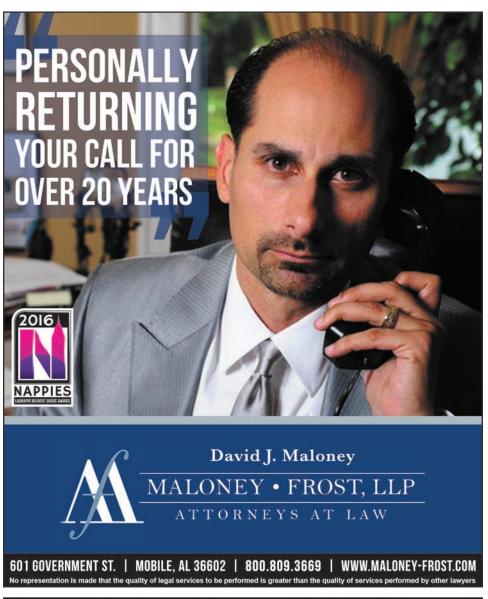
Though all three of us were running out of room, there is no way to come to a place like this and not try dessert. In our case, two were in order, Lemon and Yuzu Posset (\$5) came to Pete's side of the table, but Carol and I made sure he shared. Yuzu was described to us a cross between a lemon and an orange, which was wonderful with the chilly, thickened cream. The posset was certainly not as thick as typical ice cream but sturdy enough to be eaten with a spoon. I would describe this dessert as refreshing.

We couldn't avoid the Sata Andagi (\$5). This Japanesestyle donut with black sugar caramel had a creamy center, which was a surprise to me, but can best be described as decadent. Personally, I would have had trouble finishing one of these by myself. The sweetness is very pronounced, and I can see dessert fiends favoring this over their Southern grandmothers' confections.

We waddled out of the bar and made our way home stuffed to the gills. If you are on a budget, you might not be as full as we were. It isn't cheap, nor should it be. Think of Saisho as the place to come have a drink and try some different, amazing food and go home with a spring in your step. Go to NoJa for a rack of lamb and a good night's sleep.

If you asked what impressed me the most, I would say the fried chicken. I never dreamed a simple twice-cooked thigh could taste so amazing. I feel I missed out on slow-cooked salmon and a scallop dish, but that only gives me more reasons

Mobile has something unique in Saisho. Reservations are recommended, as they were hopping on that Thursday evening. Make your way to this jewel of a restaurant we are lucky to have. I'm sure Pete and Carol would be happy to go with you.







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CELEBRATING HEALTHCARE WEEK

We salute the men and women who work diligently to care for families in Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia counties and across the Gulf Coast region. Because of these dedicated individuals - physicians, nurses, therapists, engineers, food service workers, volunteers, environmental service employees and so many more - small and large miracles happen every day.



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Complement home-cooked meals with the right brew

BY DAN MURPHY/CONTRIBUTING WRITER \mid grandkrewe@lagniappemobile.com





A CHIMAY GRAND **RESERVE PAIRS WELL** WITH CHARCOAL-**GRILLED STEAK WITH ROASTED RED POTA-TOES AND GRILLED ASPARAGUS SPEARS. CIGAR CITY MADURO BROWN ALE COMPLE-MENTS POT ROAST WITH CARROTS AND ONIONS OVER RICE.**

Photos | wikimedia.org / flickr.com

ecently, as our 10-month-old son Jackson has started eating more "real" food and less formula, I've started looking at the food on my plate a little differently. Just like Jackson, we need a protein, some starch and some veggies to make a well-rounded dinner. In the baby's case, the cooking method (bland) and seasoning (none) are irrelevant. But when it comes to what my wife and I eat, we put more thought into how we compose our meal, assuring that, unless it's leftovers night, we're not piling spaghetti on the same plate as a scoop of pot roast and a side of sushi.

Steak, potatoes, asparagus,

Baked chicken with herbs, creamed corn, steamed broccoli. Slow-cooker pot roast with carrots and onions over rice.

These are staples in the Murphy household, but until recently even I, a certified beer and food nerd, tended to overlook the contributions a thoughtful beer pairing can provide to the meal. Instead, I found myself grabbing whatever was in the fridge, with little thought to how it would pair with the meal on my plate.

It may feel hoity-toity sometimes, but if you consider it just another side to enjoy with your dinner, the right beer can add the missing final touch to a home-cooked meal. Here are three beers I've found work well with the "Murphy staples." If you've got any favorites to share, email them to grandkrewe@lagniappemobile.com.

Charcoal-grilled steak with roasted red potatoes and grilled asparagus spears. Pair it with a Chimay Grand Reserve (Blue). Yes, it's a pricey beer, but it's a Belgian classic, brewed by Trappist monks since 1862, and it plays ever so nicely with the charred steak (medium-rare for me) and the heftiness of the red potatoes. The Belgian strong, dark ale is loaded with complex malt character, full of rich stone fruit flavors and caramelized malt. Chimay is a special-occasion beer, and I like to keep a four-pack in the fridge for dinners like this. It ages gracefully, so there's no rush to

Baked split chicken breasts with herbs de province, spicy creamed corn and steamed broccoli. Pair with: Avondale Spring Street Saison. While the Chimay's focus is squarely on malt, this Birmingham-brewed saison is all about the herbal, spicy yeast characteristics that complement the herbs in the chicken. We like to cook the creamed corn recipe from Donald Link's "Real Cajun" cookbook, and it's got some heat thanks to jalapeno peppers. The slight spiciness in Spring Street, derived in large part from open fermentation, meets its match with the creamed corn, while the malt backbone blends with the sweetness of the corn.

Slow-cooker pot roast with carrots and onions over rice. Pair with Cigar City Maduro Brown Ale. I've been working nights recently, and I've found a slow-cooker meal is a great way to make Mama happy when she's done taking care of the baby at night while I'm at work. The flavors that come out with slow cooking rich, full-bodied gravies and fork-tender meat — scream out for a rich American brown ale, and Maduro is one of the best out there. Full-bodied, with toasted malt flavors and a pleasant dark chocolate character, Maduro is a team player, matching up not just with the meat, but with the gravy-coated onions and carrots

Dan Murphy is a Certified Cicerone® and the founding brewer at Fairhope Brewing Co. Follow him on Instagram @Grand Krewe and on Twitter @Beer Man Dan.

CUISINETHE WORD OF MOUTH

Crawfish boils are uniquely Mobile

BY ANDY MACDONALD/CUISINE EDITOR | fatmansqueeze@comcast.net

ixteen years ago I was living in Southern California and found a restaurant that sold plates of crawfish with a link of sausage and a potato. It was somewhere in the \$30 range, if memory serves, and though I would occasionally cave and pay the exorbitant amount, I would always brag to the waiter, "Back home I'd have free crawfish three or four nights per week."

Now the Mobile County Health Department is cracking down on bars that boil, and it seems our "free" crawfish season has come to an abrupt halt. "The MCHD is absolutely operating within its bounds and enforcing existing rules, not making new ones, but why now?" says The Merry Widow's Roy Clark, whose Sunday boil is one of downtown's favorites. "There must be a compromise. More than anything, I'm saddened that one of the most unique and anticipated traditions of Gulf Coast culture people of all walks coming together at a watering hole around a boiling pot, being a community — might be purged from our lives because of arbitrary restrictions."

The Garage is another favorite boil I've visited as far back as

I can remember, often as a patron but sometimes as a musician. Stoney Boatman wonders, "I don't understand why the blind eye started to see now." That is the mystery that has many of us

It's not like these things are speakeasy events. They are promoted all over social media and in the pages of this column as well as other publications. But right now the Health Department is saying you need a licensed commercial kitchen to cook mudbugs. Think of the ridiculousness of that. They aren't selling crawfish. And who cooks them in a kitchen anyway?

The question I have is whether or not fundraising events are getting the same treatment. Because I am pretty certain Crawfish for a Cause, St. Mary's Crawfish and Bluegrass Extravaganza, and Crawfish in the Courtvard are larger-scale events doing pretty much the same thing as our bars. I doubt those guys are cooking in a kitchen. The same goes for chili cook-offs, gumbo cook-offs and the Downtown Cajun Cook-Off. These are events where amateur and professional chefs are cooking outdoors on sidewalks as hundreds upon hundreds of people walk by drinking beer.

"The free crawfish boil is a unique cultural phenomenon, and it gives our city something to brag about, and is a fun event to bring out-of-towners to," explains Frankie Little, well known in our restaurant scene for his many hats. "To my knowledge no one has ever been harmed by it, so why should it be stopped? I hope that through the help of our mayor, the Downtown Alliance, City Council members and the Health Department a reasonable solution can be made."

Lickin Good Donuts coming to Midtown Dauphin Street

This is one donut chain that is enjoying a meteoric rise. Lickin Good Donuts began in Robertsdale, but is killing it all over Mobile and Baldwin counties. The latest news is a new location is coming to Dauphin Street near Interstate 65 in the same shopping center as Greer's. Are their donuts any good? Oh yes, but wait until you try the kolaches! Opening in June, I can't wait for my diet to be over.



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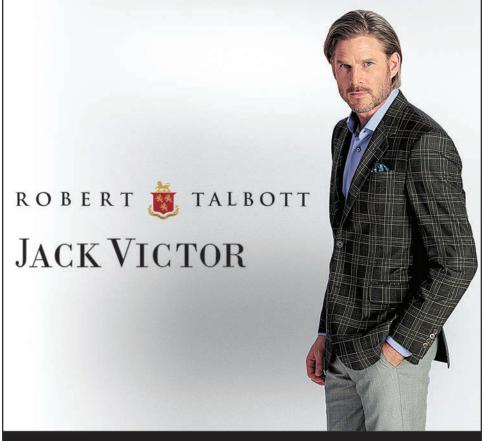
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Funding for soccerplex unveiled as deadline looms

BY JASON JOHNSON/REPORTER | jason@lagniappemobile.com

OBILE COUNTY'S PLAN TO BUILD AN estimated \$40 million soccer and aquatic complex is teetering between moving forward and being shelved for good, and with a final vote expected in the next three weeks. Commissioner Merceria Ludgood continues to hold all the cards.

The Mobile County Commission is fast approaching its July 5 deadline to exercise a \$3.1 million agreement to purchase 200 acres along Halls Mill Road selected to house the planned facility.

While the agreement was inked in 2014, the project has been significantly delayed in the county's planning and permitting process. Just last month the final hurdle seemed to be cleared after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a construction permit for the project, more than a year after the county applied for it.

Commissioners were scheduled to vote on the purchase May 23. but the vote was delayed when Commissioner Connie Hudson offered the first public details on how the project she personally spearheaded might be funded — suggesting a proposal to fund the facility's construction be considered along with the vote to purchase the property.

"It may boil down to, either we do this or we don't, but nobody is going to hand us \$20 million to do this project," Hudson said. "We're going to have to have some skin in the game."

While Hudson has championed the soccer facility at its proposed location, the project has faced opposition from Commission President Jerry Carl, who originally argued for a smaller-scale soccer complex at a location in his own district.

That gridlock has made Ludgood the second vote in a series of decisions that have moved the project forward. Hudson said she was "operating on an assumption that the support would be there" during this week's vote, though she never mentioned Ludgood

Meanwhile, Ludgood declined to offer her own opinion, saying she would be reviewing Hudson's funding proposal. Delaying the vote means the commission will take up the issue, along with Hudson's funding proposal, at one of its next two meetings.

However, with the county's third \$10,000 extension on the agreement to purchase the property set to expire July 5, the clock is ticking.

Unexpected funding proposal delays land purchase

Carl told Lagniappe he wasn't expecting any information on the project's funding to come up during the discussion of the \$3.1 million land purchase May 23, and didn't believe Ludgood was

Just last month, County Attorney Jay Ross said there were still efforts to recruit private partners to help fund the soccer complex. In late 2015, Hudson herself said, "we have some investors who are interested, but we can't do anything to move forward until we purchase the property.

Though Hudson maintains that private partnerships remain part of the plan to fund later phases of the proposed complex, the proposal from her office this week didn't include any. It would instead borrow \$20.7 million for "Phase 1" of the project, which will include 10 lighted soccer fields, spectator seating, parking facilities, road improvements and several other amenities.

"That doesn't mean we're not going to go out and look for private partners, particularly as we're looking at Phase II and Phase III — the water park and natatorium," Hudson said. "I think it's very possible that once investors see the county is willing to put forward the effort and the money to do this project, those would come online and we would see support in that respect.'

Though it doesn't specify an exact amount that would be borrowed, Hudson's plan would redirect \$1 million in lodging tax revenues to "service debt on a 20- to 30-year bond."

The county assesses a 2 percent lodging tax, which brings in roughly \$2.3 million per year including \$500,000 that has historically gone to the county's general fund operations. Hudson said those funds, coupled with another \$500,000 of unearmarked lodging tax proceeds, could cover annual payments on a loan for the project.

According to Hudson, her funding proposal wouldn't take money from special events that also receive lodging revenues. She also said it wouldn't affect the general fund, but only if projected increases in other revenues sources are borne out at the end of the fiscal year.

"The half a million coming out of the general fund would be replaced by our increase in sales tax revenue," Hudson said. "We're seeing a trend of increases there, and we're projecting about a 4 percent positive variance in that growth.

While Hudson is confident local hotel operators would be "the beneficiaries" of a new sports complex in Mobile, those in the industry are not sold. Hudson already proposed a 2 percent increase in the lodging tax to fund this project, which was unanimously rejected by the the Mobile Area Lodging Association back in 2014.

MALA President Kent Blackinton said no input was sought from local hoteliers in the financing option Hudson unveiled this week. When asked if the industry was supportive of her proposal, Hudson said "I don't know. I doubt it."

'We got wind that some of this was happening, and we took a vote in May asking if the association would support a certain percentage of lodging tax revenues that were equal to the marketing fund going to the soccer complex," Blackinton said. "The association voted 'no.'

The marketing fund the original purpose of the tax hike hoteliers self-imposed in the early 2000s to fund efforts aimed at attracting conventions and other events to Mobile County. Today, though, MALA claims only about \$280,000 from the \$2.3 million the lodging tax generates goes toward marketing efforts every year — something he says "is not what the original intent was."

Though there hasn't been a vote among MALA's members, the only proposal to fund the soccer complex so far would redirect four times more funding than the measure hoteliers have already voted down. Blackinton told Lagniappe he "guaranteed" MALA wouldn't support Hudson's \$1 million proposal, though the commission has full control over those revenues.

"I just wish we had a voice" Blackinton said "I wish they would come and talk to us. We reach out, but it doesn't seem to get anywhere.'

While no dates are set, both parties said there were meetings to discuss the proceeds from lodging taxes in the future. Hudson said she's hopeful the hoteliers will come around.

"The hoteliers were opposed to increasing the lodging tax. I understand the fears there about putting the rates so high, but this is putting a portion of what already exists toward debt service,' she said. "I would hope that once they take a look at this, they'll be on board."

After the meeting May 23, Carl said he wasn't surprised at the attempt to borrow money for the soccer complex, which he claims is something he's known would happen "from the very beginning."

"I've said they were going to borrow that money because there's no other way to pay for it," Carl said. "We're going to borrow ourselves into more and more debt. It's the only place for it to

Though Ludgood has given no hints about her impression of the last-minute funding proposal, Carl was quick to tell Hudson, "You already know what my vote is going to be."

Future expenses and projected revenue

This time last year, Sports Facilities Advisory revealed the results of a marketability study for which the county paid \$48,000. According to the study, the proposed complex is projected to have an economic impact of \$6.1 million in its first year, which could grow to \$11 million after five years in operation.

Those figures were based on up to 15 tournaments being held at the facility in a year — events SFA claims bring in multiple family members for each of the thousands of children that participate in traveling tournaments for soccer and other sports like lacrosse

"This will provide economic development benefits in terms of revenues to our community that we can turn around and put in the county coffers for things like future raises for our employees,' Hudson said. "You can't be so short-focused that you don't see the big picture.'

To the contrary, though, Carl told Lagniappe he's skeptical of the "profits" he keeps seeing associated with this project, especially considering the numbers have come from "a firm [the county] paid to put those numbers together.'

When the results of the marketability study were released in May 2015, Carl raised similar concerns about how the economic impact would stack up against the long-term costs of operating the facility. At the time, SFA Vice President Evan Eleff said expenditures would likely outweigh direct revenues in the first years of operation, though he said the economic impact should offset any

A year later, Carl said he still has unanswered questions about costs that will arise long after construction is completed. He said the facility must be maintained and the events organized, scheduled and managed, and even those lobbying for the park have said it would take at least one full-time employee just to recruit tournaments to this area.



"They can talk about profits all they want to, but there's no management plan put together,' Carl said. "Who's going to manage this thing? Is it the city? Is it the county? Is it a board?"

Mobile County Public Affairs Officer Nancy Johnson said this week no decision has been made on on how the facility will be managed when and if it's constructed.

Hudson, however, has previously said the county "doesn't have the personnel or the experience to manage something like this." She went on to say the county would "have to reach outside" for the facility's maintenance and operations.

SFA has a sister organization known as Sports Facilities Management that, as its name suggests, manages many of the facilities for which SFA conducts studies, charging monthly fees ranging from \$9,000 to \$30,000.

In April 2015, Hudson told Lagniappe the county had no plans to partner with SFM, though she also didn't rule out the possibility.

Soccer community, county employees grow impatient

While there have been talks about a county soccer facility for years, the scale of those plans expanded in 2013 to focus on a larger complex that could tap into the sports tourism industry.

Though more than 30 locations were considered, the county ultimately settled on a site at the corridor of Interstate 65 proposed by Hudson in 2013. Since then commissioners have spent just under \$500,000 evaluating the economic and environmental impacts of the proposed facility.

During the May 23 meeting, dozens of county employees, public officials and soccer enthusiasts showed up to voice support for or opposition to the complex as planned.

One was Mobile City Councilwoman Bess Rich, who is one of a majority of councilors who have continued to support a \$1.5 million allocation from the city's recreation budget to help the county purchase the land for what she called a "very vital project."

"Even smaller cities have had the foresight to build these complexes for their citizens," Rich said. "I'm sure Daphne, Gulfport, Foley, Pensacola and Gulf Shores have greatly benefited by our economic oversight, and have achieved the goal of having our children travel to them for their tournaments.

Like Rich, Chad Harrelson of the Mobile United Football Club and Danny Corte, director of the Mobile Sports Authority, said it would improve the quality of life in Mobile and attract new families looking for recreational opportunities for their children. Others - including dozens of Mobile County employees — said they don't oppose soccer, yet don't feel the county needs to prioritize a \$20 million project over

employees and retirees still struggling to meet rising health care costs.

"[Bess Rich] invoked Daphne, Fairhope, Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, but she needs to look at their pay scales because all of those agencies pay their employees more than what you all pay your employees," Mobile Metro Jail Warden Trey Oliver said. "Those city and county leaders had the foresight to jump on this soccer wagon years ago when it was hot. This is too much and it's too late."

Oliver and others representing the Mobile County Merit System Employees Association said they'd oppose any project that required borrowing money. When asked about those concerns, Hudson said issues of employee raises and capital projects were "apples and oranges."

In the past two years, the commission has given employees a 7.5 percent salary increase and an additional \$1,500 in bonuses per employee. While Hudson said she hopes that continues, she added that neither borrowed capital funding nor lodging tax revenues could pay for those types of personnel costs.

"What I'm proposing would take debt service from a lodging tax fund, which would never be used to pay employees' raises," she said. "Some just think we should not do economic development at all, but we're doing other projects. This one just gets singled out, and it's a shame because this one actually provides amenities for our citizens."

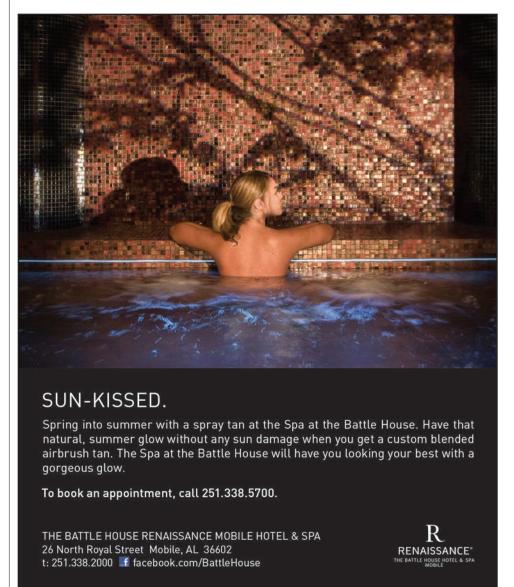
Among those speaking in opposition to the proposed plan was Mobile County District Attorney Ashley Rich, who has been locked in a legal battle with the commission over increased funding for her office since 2012.

In March, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled in Rich's favor - a decision that leaves the county on the hook for an additional \$3 million per year unless a pending motion to rehear the case proves successful. Rich told commissioners "it is not smart" to borrow money for a soccer complex when they'll likely be required to pay additional money to her office in the near future.

She also told commissioners they have an obligation not only to their employees, but also to local victims of crime.

"Can you assure them that you can pay what you owe to the district attorney's office and pay this loan without cutting funding to other county offices and without making these county employees suffer?" Rich asked. "If you can't make that promise, then please do the responsible thing and vote against this proposal for funding the soccer complex.'

In anticipation of the May 23 vote, Lagniappe published several articles detailing the history of that property and the 13 property owners that stand to benefit from the county's land purchase. The articles are available at lagniappemobile.com.







Mix of arts and sciences getting STEAMy

ARTS ARTIFICE

BY KEVIN LEE/ARTS EDITOR | klee@lagniappemobile.com

dd some heat to water and you get steam, right? Now, there's a different kind of heat stirred solely by the first letter in our alphabet.

In recent times, we're used to advocacy for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and pursuits. A growing trend to add arts to the acronym — making it STEAM — has stirred cultural biases.

The different way we treat science and math as compared to the arts emerges early in our lives. We assign them different sides of the brain, even gender proclivity in an urge to compartmentalize humanity.

How true is this? Are math and sciences harder, practical more "male" while the arts are softer, fanciful, more "female?" Do they work in opposition?

Only if an incomplete brain is your goal. Decades of studies like those recently published in "Education Next" and "Educational Researcher" show students exposed to museums and performing arts centers show enhanced empathy, memory and critical thinking skills.

Plato believed all children should learn music, physics and philosophy because "the patterns in music and all the arts are the key to learning." In a 2014 article in Education Week, Mobile County Public School System teacher and former Alabama State Teacher of the Year Anne Jolly argued any resistance to the new combination from either arts or math/science proponents is shortsighted.

"When push comes to shove, it's not STEM versus STEAM — it's about making every student a fully literate 21st century citizen," Jolly wrote.

Alabama School of Math and Science art teacher Orren Kickliter mentioned in conversation he believes the link between art and science stems from both realms' "intellectual basis." One of his colleagues sees corollaries firsthand.

ASMS teacher Sarah Brewer holds degrees in both fine arts and mathematics and teaches a class that integrates them. She readily sees creativity and calculation in both.

"If one has visual arts training, a science problem is benefited by an amazing ability to visualize the issue, both as a tool for solving it and as a tool for communicating your findings to others. Many problems in chemistry, biology and physics are geometric in nature, and others are topological—both mathematical fields roughly dealing with the shape of space," Brewer said.

She acknowledged the majority of grants for arts and sciences go toward education and medicine rather than purely creative ideas. Monetization takes priority.

"There's a reason the great Renaissance thinkers tended to be artists, mathematicians, scientists and philosophers rolled into one since society allowed them to be creative. The more creatives can understand the fundamentals of other creative disciplines, the more informed our experiments are and the more likely we are to come up with something truly new and profound," Brewer said.

University of South Alabama physics professor Albert Gapud is the son of an art historian and an entomologist so he understands the complementary relationship between the arts and sciences. He values his father's lessons on Galileo and Darwin as much as his mother's tutelage in Michelangelo and Beethoven.

"To me, the main reason science and art are symbiotic is one could simply not exist without the other. One lesson I try to impart to my students is science has moved forward not so much from logic but from human creativity. The people who expanded the frontiers of science — like Einstein, Galileo, Newton — could not have done so without thinking 'outside the box,'" Gapud said.

USA art instructor Rene Culler pointed to the union of math

and aesthetics found in the natural world with the Fibonacci sequence. She said artists often reinvent proportions, color combinations and abstract laws of the natural world.

"As a maker of blown glass and sculpture, true understanding of the material requires knowledge of physics, chemistry and thermodynamics, a variety of sciences to make the art. The origin of the word 'science' is 'to know.' But what is art? We know in many ways," Culler said.

Culler's USA arts and glass lab colleague Rachel Wright is another child of science. Her father was an engineer who worked in the space program.

"The time artists spend in the studio is research: we ask ourselves questions, and seek to answer those questions through working, putting disparate things together, viewing them from different angles, always experimenting and testing the waters," Wright said.

She finds the level of inquiry and curiosity comparable in both realms. She also nodded to the creativity required for any discovery.

"I frequently feel like a mad scientist or an alchemist — the original scientists! — by mixing up different combinations of material, and the exhilaration of not being certain what exactly will come out of it," the glass artist said.

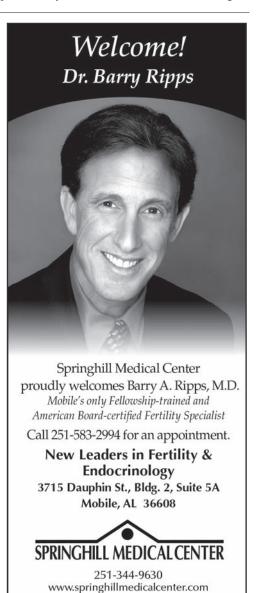
In a broader sense, arts and science share something more profound. They're truly callings since you're unlikely to be wealthy or powerful in either vocation.

However, neither arts nor science seeks personal gain by sowing pettiness or entrenching division among humanity, either. If anything, their goals are ultimately unifying and universal.

Science is an attempt to know the mechanisms of existence while art is the attempt to express the experience of that same existence. The promise they hold is liberation and understanding.









POLICY 495 or your claim WILL BE DENIED!

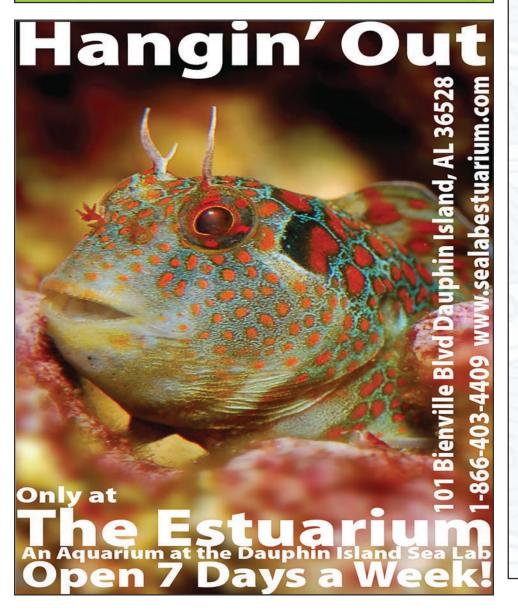


WHAT IS POLICY

If you DO NOT KNOW you need to CALL J.L. EVANS NOW BEFORE BP AND DWHCC DRASTICALLY REDUCES OR EVEN **DISQUALIFIES YOUR CLAIM!**

Hi Folks, this is J.L. Evans, with an offer you can't refuse, bring me your BP and DWHCC (BEL) Business Claim; give me (10 minutes) of your time and in less than (1) week, your BP and DWHCC claim will be RE-CALCULATED and MAXIMIZED under POLICY 495 and ready to be submitted for payment.

BP CLAIMS GROUP (251) 525-3900





MMoA dissects 'Forty-Part Motet'

BY KEVIN LEE/ARTS EDITOR | klee@lagniappemobile.com



rtist Janet Cardiff's sound installation "Forty-Part Motet" has wowed visitors since it went on display at Mobile Museum of Art (4850 Museum Drive) in early March. The detailed reproduction of a choral rendition of Renaissance composer Thomas Tallis' "Spem in alium" has moved visitors to exultation and tears alike.

On Thursday, May 26, at 7 p.m., Director of Choral Activities Dr. Laura Moore of the University of South Alabama will help visitors dissect the anatomy of the musical piece. She will look at the history of 16th century devotional music, choral practice and the life and works of Tallis.

Museum staff will also discuss the unique challenges brought about by the installation for the ears rather than the customary visual orientation. The interactive activity is designed to bring visitors a greater appreciation and depth of knowledge for the showplace in Langan Park.

The event is free. For more information call 251-208-5200.

Williams classic enters last weekend

May 27-29 is the last weekend for the latest presentation of Tennessee Williams' masterful psychological study "The Glass Menagerie" at Theatre 98 (350 Morphy Ave., Fairhope). The final performances run May 27-29 at the intimate Eastern Shore playhouse with audience seating to match its moniker.

The tale of a mother's transference of her faded dreams onto her children's futures and the tender sadness that wallpapered their house is one of the most celebrated stage plays of the last century. Much of its content is derived from the playwright's own life.

The production experienced setbacks in the final weeks before the premiere with a pair of tragic deaths among its chief personnel. Word has it the cast of four and a replacement director performed remarkably in the time since, with a delay of mere days.

Friday and Saturday curtain is at 8 p.m. Sunday matinee is

Tickets are \$18, \$12 for students. For more information call 251-626-5802 or go to theatre98.org.

Jazz camp auditions continue

There's still time for hopeful young musicians to earn a place in the new jazz camp being staged by the Mobile Big Band Society. Formal auditions will take place at the Ben May Main

AS THE PLAY OPENS, CATHY IS LAMENTING THE END OF HER MARRIAGE. IT THEN SHIFTS AS HER HUS-BAND, JAMIE, IS INTRODUCED, BUT HE'S FIVE YEARS IN THE PAST AT THE BEGIN-NING OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP.

Library (701 Government St.) on Saturday, May 28, at 11 a.m. Applicants must have their own instruments and be able to

play at least five of the basic scales along with a selection from a music method book and a brief solo selection. The goal is to develop a jazz education program for intermediate to advanced aspiring youth musicians in the Mobile area through instruction, master classes, historical perspectives, field trips and performance opportunities.

Staff instructors include E.B. Coleman Big Band and Excelsior Band leader Hosea London, multi-instrumentalist Dr. Kent Murdick and Ellis Marsalis protégé Deborah Johnson McIntosh. There also promises to be master classes led by visiting jazz

For more information or to request a registration form contact Yvette Chestang at 251-545-4244 or email thejazzstudiomobile@ gmail.com.

MTG travels love's travails

It's amazing what time and ardor will do to what begins as magic. Playwright and songsmith Jason Robert Brown took the demise of his own marriage and turned it into theatrical gold with the work "The Last Five Years," but nearly at a cost. His ex-wife threatened legal action because the musical followed her story a little too closely without her permission. After changing one song near the play's beginning, the ex eased her threats.

The Mobile Theatre Guild (14 N. Lafayette St.) will take audiences on those stormy seas when it stages the play June 3-12. Christopher Spencer directs this latest version. Musical direction is by Scott Jolly.

As the play opens, Cathy is lamenting the end of her marriage. It then shifts as her husband, Jamie, is introduced, but he's five years in the past at the beginning of their relationship

On it goes, her going backward in time while he heads forward. The only moment when they meet in the same patch of time is at their wedding in the play's middle.

The clever juxtaposition delighted Chicago audiences when it premiered in 2001. It moved on to Off-Broadway New York where it picked up six Drama Desk Award nominations with a win for Outstanding Music and Lyrics. It was revived Off-Broadway in 2013 and has traveled the globe.

Friday and Saturday curtain is 8 p.m. Sunday matinee is 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors, military and students. For more information call 251-433-7513 or go to mobiletheatreguild.org.





2016 Oakwood Swim and Racquet Club **Summer Tennis Camp**

Session 1 Beginner/Intermediate June 6-9 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Session 2 Beginner/Intermediate 9:00 AM-1:00 PM June 27-30 Session 3 Beginner/Intermediate **July 5-8** 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Session 4 Beginner/Intermediate 9:00 AM-1:00 PM July 11-14 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Session 5 Beginner/Intermediate July 25-28

Spring Hill College Coach John Dotson USPTA/PTR is running Oakwood Swim and Tennis Camp this year. Coach Dotson brings a wealth of experience teaching camps in South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi as well as Alabama.

The camp will consist of learning the Fun-damentals in tennis including Forehands, Backhands, Serves and volleys. We will also learn sportsmanship and etiquette of

The cost of the camp is \$150 for members, \$175 for non-members for the week and that includes snacks, drinks, pizza party on the last day and a camp t-shirt. Rain days can be made up on another camp week or on a private basis.

For more information call Coach John at 251-786-0507.

Childs Name:		
Age:	Grade	DOB
Address		
Has your child taken	tennis lessons k	pefore?
By entering I hereby from any and all res	release the Oaky ponsibility for ac	vood Swim and Racquet Club and instructors cidents or losses at the camp
Signature		Date







PUBLIC NOTICE



Notice is hereby given that the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will hold a Public Involvement Meeting concerning Project No. HPP-AL06(902).

I-10 Eastbound Water Street On-Ramp Closure and Improvements to Canal Street, Claiborne Street, and Texas Street Interchange.

The meeting is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on June 14, 2016 in the Killian Room at the International Trade Center located at 250 North Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602.

The meeting format will be an informal, walk-through information session. No speeches or formal presentations are planned. Maps prepared for this project will be available for inspection. Representatives of the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will be available to answer questions throughout the meeting.

Comment sheets will be provided, which you may fill out and turn back in at the meeting, email to us at swinfo@dot.state.al.us, fax them at (251) 473-3624 or send by mail within ten (10) business days after the meeting. The mailing address is:

> Vincent E. Calametti, P.E. Region Engineer, Southwest Region Alabama Department of Transportation 1701 I-65 West Service Road N Mobile, Alabama 36618

For individuals requiring special assistance due to physical impairments or disability, please call (251) 470-8267 or contact the Region Engineer at the above-listed address. Special assistance should be requested at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.







LUCERO. **UNDERHILL FAMILY ORCHESTRA** SATURDAY, MAY 28, WITH DOORS AT 9 P.M. **THE MERRY WIDOW,** 51 S. CONCEPTION ST., WWW.THEMERRYWIDOW.NET **TICKETS: \$32.50 IN ADVANCE/\$36.50** DAY OF SHOW; AVAILABLE AT THE **MERRY WIDOW AND ITS WEBSITE**



New album captures Lucero in a reflective mood

BY STEPHEN CENTANNI/MUSIC EDITOR | scentanni@lagniappemobile.com

Memphis band Lucero comes to The Merry Widow Should Do."

he Merry Widow is hosting

a double shot of Americana with Mobile's own Underhill Family Orchestra, followed by the band Lucero from Memphis, Tennessee. In this relatively intimate setting, Lucero will perform music from its latest release, "All a Man Should Do," which is built on a multilevel foundation of reflection.

First, the band pays homage to fellow Memphis group Big Star with the album title and a track ("I'm in Love with a Girl") taken from Big Star's catalog. Big Star's Jody Stephens also makes an appearance on the album. In a recent conversation, guitarist Brian Venable was gracious enough to elaborate on "All a Man Should Do."

Stephen Centanni: There seems to be a lot of reflection on this new album. What made you want to step back and analyze things?

Brian Venable: I think it's where Ben [Nichols] was, where he had left one lady that wasn't very nice and ended up with another lady that he married. I think he just caught a rare opportunity. Songs are usually about some girl that you wanted or had. This one just seems to catch it at the right spot in between two of them

It's also about getting older. For a while, it's fun to chase the ladies. At some point, you're just like, "Man, I want to settle down," or you find somebody where you're like, "I think that I can be with you for a while" thing, as opposed to everything being very temporary and disposable.

Centanni: You took the title of the album from a Big Star song, and you include a Big Star cover on this album. What is it about Big Star that made you want to not only cover a song from them but also an

Venable: We had never covered a song before, and it was our third record with Ted Hutt. We thought it would be fun to do a cover. We were looking at R&B songs and old Stax songs, because that's the direction we had been going. Then we realized that this record was a little bit more jangly, for lack of a better word. It dawned on us that Big Star was just as much Memphis, and Jody [Stephens] was around all the time. Then we narrowed it down.

There's certain Big Star songs that everybody covers, you know. "I'm in Love with a Girl" fits in with what was going on where he met this one girl and met this new girl. You can hear it on the album. One side is very down, and the other is very triumphant. Well, it's not triumphant; it's not happy or sad, but there's a certain element of "whew" as opposed to optimism. It falls into that. On the [Big Star] record, Alex Chilton does it acoustic and by himself. The chance of doing a full-band version of it was kind of cool.

Centanni: What do you think is all a man can do? Venable: Well, it's different for everybody. I don't know. I have kids, and I recently separated from my wife. For me, it's to try to keep my kids' lives stable and keep myself healthy. Ben is about to have a baby, and his whole thing is to be with his wife and raise his kid. It's a very personal thing. Some people may

want to sell the house, move to Key West and get the hell out of town. Who knows? I think it's just such a blanket statement, so that way you can fit every kind of dynamic into it.

Centanni: You mentioned Ted Hutt earlier. This is the third time vou've used him. You look at his legacy, and you see bands like Dropkick Murphys and MxPx and Street Dogs. Then you see people like Lucero and Old Crow Medicine Show. It seems like he has a very versatile ear.

Venable: I think there was a huge thing when we first hired him. We looked at and talked to a couple of different producers. He had just done that Gaslight Anthem record that got so big, and he was very popular. For us, we work well with him, but we also broke

April was the 18th anniversary. We've done all the growing up and all the fighting and all the making up. We still love each other, but there's a certain element of, "This is what we do for a living." It's still exciting, and it's one of the best jobs that you could ever have.

We've been to the Grand Canvon, and we've done anything that you might do. We've all damn near drank ourselves to death, and we've gotten through that, except for special occasions. We read a lot and watch TV and find our favorite food places and visit our friends. I have my favorite book stores in every city. The guitar tech likes to go to all the record stores. John [Stubblefield] likes to ride his bike and look for pho. It's not a Guns N' Roses 1987 kind of thing. It's what we do.



The studio is a painting, and you can do anything you want with it. Whereas live each night, three nights in a row, it could sound one way. On the fourth night, it could blow up and turn into something different. That's the beauty of a live performance.

each other in. He knows what to expect from us and what he can push and can't push. It's the same for us.

We might use him for the next record, but we don't know. There's a reason why Van Halen used the same producer for years. You get into a nice pattern. We can explain to him what we want, and he's like, "OK, I understand." It's a relationship that worked out, and we don't like breaking in new producers.

Centanni: You've got these road songs on there like "I Woke Up in New Orleans" and "My Girl & Me in '93." I think the need for bands to find money more in touring than in selling albums has given birth to a bunch of road songs over the past couple of years. You guvs have been road warriors for many years. What's it like on the road with Lucero these days?

Venable: It's my favorite word: uneventful. Last

Centanni: Studio songs can take on a new life in a live setting. How would you describe the live translations of these songs?

Venable: They've translated well. That's also a thing with us. I don't go see a band to hear them play the album-perfect song. I can sit at home and listen to that. I want to see how they do it live. I want to see what they can pull off when it's a bad day and somebody got drunk and somebody got sick and if they're in a good mood or acting crazy and playing everything twice as fast. That's the exciting part. We're Lucero. That's what we do.

The studio is a painting, and you can do anything you want with it. Whereas live each night, three nights in a row, it could sound one way. On the fourth night, it could blow up and turn into something different. That's the beauty of a live performance.



LULUPALOOZA SATURDAY, MAY 28, AT 2:30 P.M. **LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, 200 E. 25TH AVE.** (GULF SHORES), **■ WWW.LULUBUFFETT.COM TICKETS: FREE**

Photo | press-street.org | George Porter Jr.

Lucy Buffett's LuLuPalooza

arrotheads from across the Southeast are getting ready to spend the evening with Jimmy Buffett at the Amphitheater at The Wharf on Tuesday, May 31. Many will be arriving on the Alabama Gulf Coast a few days early to soak in the sun and saltwater. For those wanting to "pregame" for the Buffett concert, sister Lucy Buffett's LuLu's will be hosting LuLu-Palooza with a three-band lineup that should not be missed.

Bill "Sauce Boss" Wharton will warm up the crowd with his hot blues and spicy gumbo. This Gulf Coast regular has one of the most unique live shows on the road. In between carefree trips across the fretboard, Wharton concocts a huge batch of his signature gumbo. After his set, the audience is invited to sample this exquisite dish. No one leaves hungry.

The Mulligan Brothers will represent the Azalea City. This quartet of modern folk maestros have been busy spreading the sounds of their stellar debut, "Via Portland." Listeners have been overwhelmed by the depth and sincere songwriting found on this album. With each road venture, The Mulligan Brothers bring their Gulf Coast sounds to a legion of new

LuLu is also bringing the Palooza crowd a healthy dose of New Orleans. George Porter Jr. & The Runnin' Pardners will return to Gulf Shores with another tidal wave of Big Easy funk. As bassist for The Meters. Porter established a permanent legacy in the New Orleans music scene. With this project, he gives his audience the pure essence of the Crescent City funk sound.

Hip-hop quadfecta

he Blind Mule remains one of Mobile's best venues for catching the newest local acts. One is Young Valentines, an underground hip-hop duo that sets verbal flow on a bed of ethereal ambient cuts. Young Valentines have been promoting their original work through their single, "The Switch Up," and its dreamy companion video.

Young Valentines' set will be complemented by a group of regional hip-hop artists. New Orleans native MellowBenji will provide the crowd with tracks from his latest album, "Channels." This release is a collection of excellent underground hip-hop with mesmerizing samples and a mellow flow of lyrics

Hattiesburg-based Hisnameiskway will bring smooth vocal work and jazzy backtracks, taking the audience on a soothing hip-hop journey that fuses the funky with the intellectual. Metro Pesci will complete this lineup with a set of Southern underground hip-hop.



BAND: YOUNG VALENTINES, MELLOWBENJI, HISNAMEISKWAY. **METRO PESCI** DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 27, **AT 10 P.M. VENUE: THE BLIND MULE, 57 N. CLAIBORNE ST., WWW.THEBLINDMULE.NET TICKETS: CALL** 251-694-6853 **FOR MORE INFO**

BAND: PETER FRAMPTON DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 27, AT 8 P.M. VENUE: IP CASINO, RESORT & SPA. 850 BAYVIEW AVE. (BILOXI), **WWW.IPBILOXI.COM** TICKETS: \$45-\$65, **AVAILABLE THROUGH TICKETMASTER**



Photo | facebook.com | Peter Frampton

Frampton unplugged

he 1970s gave birth to a plethora of guitar greats. These electric stringmasters were known for their epic solos, especially in a live setting. In the annals of rock history, Peter Frampton will always be known for creating memorable songs that were impressive lyrically and instrumentally. Owning Frampton's masterpiece "Frampton Comes Alive!" is almost a requirement for any '70s rock enthusiast. Even today, the voice-box anthems found on this album still enjoy steady radio rotation.

With a new album in hand, Frampton has been giving his audience another interpretation of his most memorable songs. "Acoustic Classics" takes many of Frampton's biggest hits and delivers them in a stripped-down format. Known for his intricate work on the electric guitar, songs such as "Do You Feel Like I Do," "Baby, I Love Your Way" and "Show Me the Way" take on a new aural persona. Frampton expertly morphs these arena-rock hits into gentle, emotional anthems.

AREACLUB LISTINGS

[DOWNTOWN]

Alchemy Tavern 7 S. Joachin St. | 441-7741

The Blind Mule 57 N. Claiborne St. | **694-6853**

Boo Radley's 276 Dauphin St. | 432-1996

352 St. Francis St. | **648-1596**

The Brickyard 266 Dauphin St. | 473-4739

Buck's Pizza

350 Dauphin St. | 431-9444 Callaghan's Irish Social Club

916 Charleston St. | **433-9374**

Dauphin St. Blues Company & Draft Picks

564 Dauphin St. | 725-6429 Firehouse Wine Bar Shor

216 St. Francis St. | 421-2022 Gabriel's Downtown

55 S. Joachim St. | 432-4900 The Garage

9 S. Washington Ave. | 433-2223 Hayley's Downtown

278 Dauphin St. | 433-4970 Joe Cain Café

26 N. Royal St. | 338-2000 Liquid

661 Dauphin St. | 432-0109 Loda Bier Garten

251 Dauphin St. | 287-6871 Mobile Civic Center

401 Civic Center Dr. | 208-7261 Moe's Original BBQ

701 Spring Hill Ave | 410-7427 O'Daly's Irish Pub

564 Dauphin St. | 725-6429 OK Bicycle Shop

661 Dauphin St. |432-2453 Pat's Downtown Grill

271 Dauphin St. | 438-9585 Riverview Plaza

(Fathoms Lounge) 64 S. Water St. | 438-4000

Royal Scam 72 S. Royal St. | 432-SCAM (7226)

Royal Street Tavern

26 N. Royal St. | **338-2000**

Saenger Theatre 6 S. Joachim St. | 208-5600

Saddle Up Saloon 9 N Jackson St. | **285-4596**

Serda's Coffee Company 3 S. Royal St. | 415-3000

Skyview Lounge 301 Gov't St. | 694-0100

Soul Kitchen 219 Dauphin St. | **433-5958**

Spot of Tea's Jaggers 310 Dauphin St. | **375-6772** Studio 5'4

216 Dauphin St. | 725-0406

T.P. Crockmiers 250 Dauphin St. | 476-1890

The Listening Room 78 St. Francis St. | **367-4599**

Veet's

66 S. Royal St. | **694-3090**

[MIDTOWN]

Ashland Midtown Pub 2453 Old Shell Rd. | 479-3278

Blues Tavern 2818 Gov't Blvd. | 479-7621

Butch Cassidy's Cafe 60 N. Florida St. | **450-0690**

Kimberly's Midtown Bar 2660 Old Shell Rd. | 478-1477

Mellow Mushroom 2032 Airport Blvd. | 471-4700

Rear Pocket 2525 Emogene St. | **476-0053**

Royal Knight Restaurant 3004 Gov't Blvd. | **287-1220**

Silver Horse Pub 151 S. Florida St. | 478-7030

[EASTERN SHORE]

Bay House Pub [Daphne] 28850 Bayline Dr. | **626-0158**

Boudreaux's Cajun Grill [Daphne] 29249 US Hwy. 98 | **621-1991**

Club 44 [Daphne] 28850 US 98, #100 | 445-8069

Gumbo Shack 212 Fairhope Ave. | 928-4100

Manci's Antique Club [Daphne] 1715 Main St. 1 375-0543

McSharry's [Fairhope] 101N Brancroft St. | **990-5100**

Moe's Original BBQ [Daphne]

6423 Bayfront Pk Dr. | 625-7427 Old 27 Grill [Fairhope]

19992 Hwy 181 | 281-2663 Papa's Pizza [Daphne]

28850 US Hwy 98 | 626-7662 Plow [Fairhope]

96 Plantation Pointe | 410-7569 Courtyard 311

311 Fairhope Ave. | 928-2032 Ravenite Pizzeria [Fairhope]

102 N. Section St. | 929-2525 Rosie's Grill and Record Bar [Daphne]

1203 U.S. 98 | 626-2440 Windmill Market [Fairhope]

85 N. Bancroft St. | 517-5444

[WESTMOBILE]

All Sports Bar & Grill 3408 Pleasant Valley Rd. | 345-9338 **Billiards Club**

4130 Gov't Blvd. | 447-2132

Cockeyed Charlies

6920 Airport Blvd. | **725-1112**

Crooked Martini

7639 Cottage Hill Rd. #C | 633-5555

Flashback Club

10071 Airport Blvd. | **634-2239**

Jag's Sports Bar & Grill 5602 Old Shell Rd. | **725-1102**

Lucky Irish Pub & Grill 3692 Airport Blvd. | 414-3000

Mellow Mushroom

5660 Old Shell Rd. | 380-1500

Patches

5100 Girby Rd. | **661-8028**

Satori Coffee House 5460 Old Shell Rd. | **344-4575**

Runway Billards 8000 Airport Blvd. | **634-8006**

The Hungry Owl 7899 Cottage Hill | **633-4479**

Tinder Box

1312 W I-65 Service Rd. S | **460-2597**

Stir Mobile 5821 Old Shell Rd., Ste. D | **342-9995**

VFW Post 49 2528 Govt Blvd. | 471-9438

[THE BEACH]

Flora-Bama

17401 Perdido Key Dr., | **850-492-0611**

The Hangout

101 Gulf Ct. | **948-3030**

Live Bait

24281 Perdido Beach Blvd. | **974-1612**

Lulu's at Homeport Marina 200 E. 25th Ave. | **251-967-LULU**

Pink Pony Pub [Gulf Shores] 137 East Gulf Pl. | 978-6371

Pirate's Cove [Elberta] 6600 County Rd. 95 | 987-1224

Tacky Jacks

[Orange Beach] 27206 Safe Harbor Dr, | 981-4144 [Gulf Shores] 249 E. 24th Ave. | 948-8881

1577 Alabama 180 | 968-8341 The Handlebar [Pensacola]

319 N. Tarragona St. | 434-9060 The Wharf

[Orange Beach] 4985 Wharf Pkwy. | **224-1000**

[AROUND AND ABOUT]

The Old Bama Barn [Theodore] 11470-B Bellingrath Rd. | **973-0388**

Blue Gill Restaurant 3775 Battleship Pkwy. | **625-1998**

Bottoms Up 2605 Halls Mill Rd. | **287-7781**

Briar Patch

9371 Dauphin Island Pkwy. | 973-1120

Celtic Irish Pub [Pascagoula]

4901 Chicot St. | **228-938-6800**

Ed's Seafood Shed

3382 Battleship Pkwy. | **625-1947**

Felix's Fish Camp

1530 Battleship Pkwy. | **626-6710**

Midnight Rodeo

7790 Tanner Rd. | **639-2222**

Mississippi Coast Coliseum [Biloxi]

2350 Beach Blvd. | **228-594-3700**

The End Zone Sports Bar [Mt. Vernon] 19170 Hwy 43. | 829-9227

The Oar House

[Dauphin Island]

1504 Bienville Blvd. | **861-4800**

Original Oyster House

3733 Battleship Pkwy. | **626-2188**

Pelican Pub & Restaurant

[Dauphin Island] 1102 DeSoto Ave. | **861-7180**

Pelican Reef Restaurant 11799 Dauphin Island Pkwy. | **973-2670**

Trader's 4015 Battleship Pkwy | **626-5630**

The Grand Mariner 6036 Rock Point Rd. | 443-5700

The River Shack

6120 Marina Dr. S. | 443-7318

Tin Top 6232 Bon Secour Hwy. County Rd. 10 | 949-5086

Touch Down Tavern

5460 Inn Rd | **662-7543**

VFW Post 7320 [Saraland] 244 Old Telegraph Rd. | 679-1188

Whiskey Blues [Theodore]

5791 Swedetown Rd. | **633-1769**

Zebra Lounge 2343 Dauphin Island Pkwy. | **473-2997**

[CASINOS]

Beau Rivage

[Biloxi] 878 Beach Blvd. | 228-386-7111

or 888-595-2534

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

[Biloxi]

777 Beach Blvd. | **228-374-ROCK (7625)**

Harrah's Hotel & Casino

228 Poydras St. | 504-533-6000

Grand Casino

[Biloxi]

280 Beach Blvd. | 228-436-2946

IP Casino Resort & Spa

[Biloxi]

850 Bayview Ave. | **800-436-3000**

Wind Creek Casino

303 Poarch Rd., Atmore | **866-946-3360**

AREAMUSIC LISTINGS | May 26 - June 1

[THUR. MAY 26]

Blind Mule— Hibachi Stranglers, Flameretarded, Autrax, 10p

Bluegill— Al & Cathy

Blues Tavern— Art & Friends, 8:30p **Boudreaux's Cajun Grill**— David Chastang, 6p

Café Del Rio— John Cochran, 6p Callaghan's— John Calvin Abney, Shonna Tucker, Chris Porter

Cockeyed Charlie's— JJ, 10p

Felix's— Soulshine

Flora Bama— Brittany Grimes, 2p//
Frankie Golden & Steve Wilkerson, 5:30p///
Curtis Shumate, 6p//// J. Hawkins Trio, 6p////
Jess Goggans Duo, 5p//// Mark Sherrill, John
Joiner, Chris Newbury, Mel Knapp, 6p////
Hung Jury, 10p//// Shawna P Trio, 10:15p////
Lee Yankie & Hellz Yeah, 10:30p

Hangout— Mario Mena Band, 6p Hard Rock (Center Bar) — Flying

Steinway Brothers, 9p

Lulu's— Adam Holt, 5p

McSharry's— Jimmy Lumpkin Duo Old 27 Grill— Hollis, 6:30p

Traders— Bayou Rhythm, 7:30p

Soul Kitchen— Avatar, 7:30p

Veets— Drew Bentley, 8p

[FRI. MAY 27]

All Sports Bar & Billards— DJ Markie Mark, 10p

Beau Rivage— Charley Pride **Blind Mule**— Young Valentines, Metro

Voice, 10p

Bluegill— Eric Erdman, 12p// Midlife Crisis, 6p

Blues Tavern— Woo Tones, 9p **Boudreaux's Cajun Grill**— Brad Lawley & Tyler Champion. 6p

Café Del Rio— Mark Pfaft and the Riff Raff. 6p

Cockeyed Charlie's— Ben Leninger & Friends, 10p

Ed's Seafood Shed— Eric Erdman, 6p Felix's— Perry Wall

Flora Bama— Hurricane Warning, 2p// Jack Robertson Show, 5:30p/// Hotel Oscar, 6p//// Smokey Otis Trio, 6p//// Lee Yankie Duo, 7p//// Songwriter Showcase, 7p//// Moustache Band, 10p//// Davis Nix Trio, 10:15p//// Telluride, 10:30p

Hangout—Velcro Pygmies, 7p Hard Rock (Center Bar) — Phil Vaught, 9p

IP Casino— Peter Frampton, 8p
Isla Mirada Fish Company— Ma

Isla Mirada Fish Company— Matt Bush

Listening Room— The Stereo Dogs, 8p **Lulu's**— Cool Rayz, 5p

Manci's— Chris Powell, 7:30p

Main Street Cigar Lounge— Jamie Adamson, 8p

McSharry's— DJ Boom, 10p

The Merry Widow— Miss Tess & the Talkbacks, Blue Healer, 9p

Moe's BBQ (Daphne) — Wavelength, 8D

Moe's BBQ (Mobile) — Adam Holt Duo. 6:30p

O'Daly's— Gene Murrell, Tony Edwards and David White, 10p

Old 27 Grill— Roger Wood Duo, 6:30p

Pinzones—Tim Kinsey

Tacky Jacks (Gulf Shores)— Soul Food Junkies, 6p

Tropics— Rhythm Intervention

Soul Kitchen— Elements: Monthly Hip Hop Showcase, 10p

Veets—The Family Jewels, 9p
Windmill Market—Tropical Breeze,
LL:30:2

[SAT. MAY 28]

Alchemy— Slave Leia Day, 9p Blind Mule— Roast of Ryan Jetten, 8p Bluegill— Cary Laine, 12p// Rebecca

Barry Trio, 6p

Blues Tavern— Rock Bottom Blues, 9p

Boudreaux's Cajun Grill— Delta

Smoke, 6p

Café Del Rio—Worx, 6p

Callaghan's— Zack Chavers

Cockeyed Charlie's— DJ Chill, 10p// Jordan Bramblett

Ed's Seafood Shed— Britney Grimes, 6p

Felix's— Rebecca Barry Duo Fin's— Smokin' Toasters, 8p

Flora Bama— David Dunn, 12p// Logan Spicer Duo, 12p/// Beachbillys, 1p//// Jess

Goggans Trio, 2p//// LeaAnne Creswell, John Joiner, Darrel Roberts, 2p//// Justin Jeansonne Duo, 4p//// Jack Robertson Show, 5:30p//// Brian Hill Band, 6p//// Jezebel's Chill'n, 6p//// Lucky Dogs, 6p//// Shawna P.Trio, 8p//// Moustache Band, 10p//// Davis Nix Trio, 10:15p//// Telluride, 10:30p

Hangout— Velcro Pygmies, 7p **Hard Rock (Center Bar)** — Phil Vaught, 9p

Listening Room— Lisa Mills, 8p **Lulu's**— LuLu Palooza, 2p// Sauce Boss, 2p/// Mulligan Brothers, 5p//// George Porter Jr & His Runnin' Partners, 7p

McSharry's— DJ Tiger, 10p

The Merry Widow— Lucero, Underhill Family Orchestra, 9p

Moe's BBQ (Mobile) — This Side of 49,6p

Old 27 Grill— Still Standing, 6:30p Pinzones— Kristen Long

Pirates Cove— Them Again, 6p

Tacky Jacks (Gulf Shores)— Tommy
Morse, 6p

Top of the Bay— Missused **Veets—** The Family Jewels, 9p **The Wharf—** Lee Brice

[SUN. MAY 29]

Bluegill— Matt Bush, I2p// Tip Tops, 6p Blues Tavern— Mark Welborn Boudreaux's Cajun Grill— Tim

Kinsey, 6p **Café Del Rio**— Lee Yankie, 4p

Callaghan's— Great Peacock

Ed's Seafood Shed— Ross Newell, 5p Fairhope Brewing— Cary Laine,

Grayson Capps, and Yeah, Probably, 2p

Felix's— Bobby Butchka

Fin's— Chris Welborn

Flora Bama— Rebecca Barry Trio, 12p// Jason Justice, 12p/// Mario Mena Band, 2p//// Neil Dover Band, 2p//// Neil Dover, 4p//// Tony Ray Thompson, 4p//// Perdido Brothers, 5:15p//// Jezebel's Chill'n, 5:30p//// Shane Owens, 6p//// Whyte Caps, 8p//// Moustache Band, 10p//// Brian Hill Trio, 10:15p//// Hotel Oscar, 10:30p

Garage— Mother Mojo, 6p

Hangout— Velcro Pygmies, 7p

Hard Rock (Center Bar) — Me Too,

IP Casino—Maddie and Tae, 8p

Lulu's— Greg Brown, Ip// Lefy Collins, 5p

Manci's— Multi N Funk, 7p

McSharry's—Trad Irish Music, 6:30p Old 27 Grill— Charles & Evans Duo,

11:30a

[MON. MAY 30]

American Legion Post 199— Lisa Zanghi & Scott Koehn, 2p// Midlife Crisis, 4p Boudreaux's Cajun Grill— Blind Dog Mike, 6p

Felix's— Jessie Howell

Flora Bama— Gove Scrivenor, 2p// Shane Owens Band, 5:30p/// Cathy Pace, 6p//// Hotel Oscat, 10p//// Smokin' Elvis', 10:15p

Hangout— The Perry Wall

[TUE. MAY 31]

Blind Mule—Valient Thorr// Hammer Fight

Bluegill— Eric Erdman

Boudreaux's Cajun Grill— Jon Maddox, 6p

Butch Cassidy's— David Jernigan, Dr. Tom Thomas, & Karl Betts

Cockeyed Charlie's— Jordan

Bramblett, 10p

Felix's— Lefty Collins

Flora Bama— T-Bone Montgomery, 2p// David Dunn, 5:30p/// Perdido Brothers, 6p//// Lee Yankie Trio, 10p//// Albert

Simpson & John Kuhlinich, 10:15p **Lulu's**— Jimmy Lumpkin, 5p

Manci's— Josh Ewing, 6:30p

The Wharf— Jimmy Buffett

[WED. JUNE 1]

Blind Mule— Sex Knuckle and Post Mortem Delirium, 10p

Bluegill— Ross Newell

Callaghan's— Phil and Foster

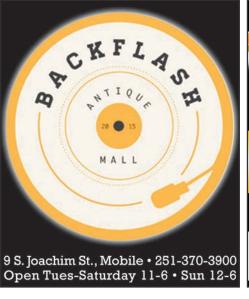
Felix's— Cary Laine

Flora Bama— Neil Dover, 2p Hangout— Mario Mena Band, 6p

Lulu's— Justin Tawn, 5p

SEND YOUR CLUB & MUSIC LISTINGS TO LISTINGS@LAGNIAPPEMOBILE.COM









'Napoleon Dynamite' franchise runs its course with 'Don Verdean'

CARMIKE **CINEMA'S** Rd. S. (251) 639-7373

CRESCENT **THEATER** 208 Dauphin Street (251) 438-2005

HOLLYWOOD STADIUM 18 1250 Satchel Paige Dr. (251) 473-9655

RAVE MOTION PICTURE JUBILEE SQUARE 12 6898 U.S. 90 (251) 626- 6266

CARMIKE **CINEMAS** 23151 Wharf Ln. Orange Beach (251) 981-4444

COBB THEATRES
PINNACLE 14 3780 Gulf **Shores** Pkwy Gulf Shores (251) 968-7444

EASTERN **CINEMA 14** 30500 Alabama 181 #500 anish Fort, Al (251) 626-0352

ormation accurate

apoleon Dynamite," the sleeper hit that launched a million ringer tees, continues to fool people into watching the subsequent efforts of married writer/director duo Jared and Jerusha Hess. But lightning doesn't often strike twice, or four times in their case, as the goodwill generated by their first effort has been divided among "Nacho Libre" (2006), "Gentlemen Broncos" (2009) and now "Don Verdean" without generating a new supply.

Their greatest strength has been quirk, in the sense of creating very specific oddball characters. "Don Verdean" tackles a subject far too large — religion — and loses the power of specificity to a generic sense of satire. The title character, played by Sam Rockwell, is a shaggy archeologist dedicated to uncovering religious artifacts for the purpose of increasing the zeal and belief of faithful Christians.

With help from his faithful assistant (Amy Ryan), Verdean attempts to recharge a stagnating career with the help of a preacher named Lazarus (Danny McBride), whose schtick is that he allegedly rose from the dead and married a reformed prostitute. This kind of set-up should

be ripe for an indictment of such people, but these characters end up in limbo between sincerity and sarcasm.

Only one actor commits to trying to be funny, and that is Jemaine Clement as Boaz, an Israeli with a ludicrous accent and loose morals. As Don Verdean's man in the Holy Land, he sent artifacts to him, but soon wants a

ONLY ONE ACTOR COMMITS TO TRYING TO BE FUNNY, AND THAT IS JEMAINE CLEMENT AS BOAZ, **AN ISRAELI WITH A LUDICROUS ACCENT AND LOOSE MORALS.**

piece of the American dream. In the U.S., Boaz and Don grow more desperate to fake what they cannot find, and the plot takes many insane turns.

Don's motives are one of the many problems with

the story. As he inevitably runs amok, the question of why he does what he does should have been the guiding concept as he becomes increasingly desperate. Instead, an incredibly downbeat, murky turn from the often outrageous Rockwell leaves the audience nothing to work with, watch on screen or care about.

Rockwell is an inexplicable blank in the middle of what I can only assume was meant to be an absurd comedy. There was no reason to try to turn in an understated performance while sporting the world's cheapest, fakestlooking beard. I'm not sure why everyone (except for Clement) decided to play such a wacky story so straight. If it was to make a point about religion, they failed. If it was supposed to be a satirical comedy, maybe some jokes would have helped. If it was intended as a sincere story, why did so many ridiculous things take place?

I sort of like parts of "Gentlemen Broncos," basically the Jemaine Clement character, but for the most part this creative pair have gone beyond sophomore slump, and it seems they stuffed all their good ideas into their first film. Jared and Jerusha Hess need to update their formula.

"Don Verdean" is currently available to rent.







(From left) It's difficult to discern whether "Don Verdean" is a satirical comedy or sincere, since nearly all the performances are superficial. Johnny Depp returns to his role as The Mad Hatter in Tim Burton's "Alice Through the Looking Glass," and the "Angry Birds" game franchise has been adapted for the screen.

NOW PLAYING

THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE

All listed multiplex theaters. THE NICE GUYS

NEIGHBORS 2: SORORITY RISING

All listed multiplex theaters. THE DARKNESS

All listed multiplex theaters. **MONEY MONSTER**

Regal Mobile Stadium 18, Carmike Jubilee Square 12 CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

All listed multiplex theaters. **GREEN ROOM**

Regal Mobile Stadium 18 **RATCHET AND CLANK**

All listed multiplex theaters. **MOTHER'S DAY** All listed multiplex theaters.

THE HUNTSMAN: WINTER'S WAR

All listed multiplex theaters. THE JUNGLE BOOK

All listed multiplex theaters. **CRIMINAL**

All listed multiplex theaters. THE BOSS

BATMAN V. SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE

All listed multiplex theaters MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2

All listed multiplex theaters. **ZOOTOPIA**

All listed multipley theaters THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT

Regal Mobile Stadium 18, Carmike Wynnsong 16, Carmike Wharf MYSTERIES OF THE UNSEEN WORLD

Exploreum IMAX Theater

■ NEW IN THEATERS

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

When Alice wakes up in Wonderland, she must travel through a mysterious new world to retrieve a magical scepter that can stop the evil Lord of Time before he turns the clock forward and turns Wonderland into a barren, lifeless world. With the help of some new friends. Alice must also uncover an evil plot to put the Queen of Hearts back on the throne. All listed multiplex theaters.

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE

With the emergence of the world's first mutant, Apocalypse, the X-Men must unite to defeat his extinction plan. James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Jennifer Lawrence return to fight alongside "Games of Thrones" Sophie Turner, Oscar Isaac and many, many more. All listed multiplex theaters.

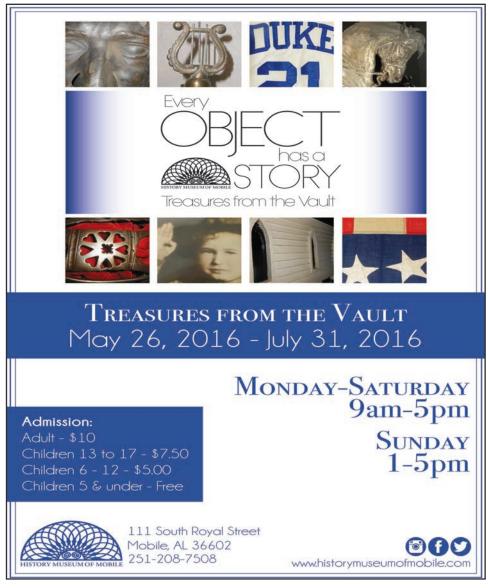
MILES AHEAD

Don Cheadle stars in this controversial Miles Davis biopic. Crescent Theater









What's a loquat?

BY NANCY ADAMS, MOBILE MASTER GARDENER | COASTALALABAMAGARDENING@GMAIL.COM



My neighbor has a rather unusual tree in her front yard that I first noticed a couple of months ago when it suddenly seemed to be loaded with pretty yellow fruit. She said it is a loquat tree and offered me some to taste. Now I would like to know more about this tree.

The loquat (Eriobotrya japonica), also known as a Japanese medlar, Chinese plum and Japanese plum, is a tree in the Rosaceae family that tends to blend into the landscape until it flowers in late autumn or early winter, with a very nice fragrance one can enjoy even from a distance. Then, in the spring or early summer, there's fruit and ... wow! It really is a beautiful tree with clusters of small, pear-shaped, yellow or orange fruit, 1-2 inches long, that tastes like a mixture of peach, orange and mango.

This fruit is similar to the apple in that it has high sugar, acid and pectin. Depending on the cultivar, the flesh can be anywhere from very sweet to acid. It can be eaten fresh, used in fruit cups and salads, or for making jellies, jams, pies or light wine.

The tree is an evergreen with a short trunk and textured foliage that is easy to grow and adds a nice tropical look to the landscape when mixed with other plants. It can grow 20 to 30 feet high, with the average being about 10 feet. It also works well as an ornamental grown in large containers.

The loquat has been grown in China and Japan for over a thousand years and was brought to the United States in the late 1700s. Japan is still the leading producer of loguats, followed by Israel and Brazil. It grows well in subtropical to mild temperatures around the world, and in the U.S. it is known to be grown in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, Texas, Hawaii and California.

Although the trees will grow as ornamentals in climates that are too cool or too warm, they will generally not bear fruit there. Each fruit has three to five seeds, and they are surprisingly large in proportion to the fruit. The loquat is usually pollinated by bees, although some cultivars are at least partially self-fertile. Fruit size can be enhanced by thinning of flowers or early fruit clusters

Loquats grow well in full sun or partial shade and are wind tolerant. They make great shade trees and are often used as espaliers on walls or fences. Although they are quite drought tolerant, they produce a better quality of fruit with regular, deep watering. But be cautious about watering too often, as they cannot tolerate standing water. They can be grown in a variety of soils, from sandy to clay or limestone, and they seem to especially like our Gulf Coast sandy soil.

As far as adding nutrients, some authorities recommend fertilizing once a year in midwinter to avoid excessive growth. Others recommend applying 6-6-6 fertilizer (for trees 8-10 feet high) three times per year during the period of active growth. The best idea may be to get your soil tested and then talk with a horticulture agent at the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service if you have questions.

Loquat fruits mature from full flower opening in about 90



Photo | Courtesy of Nancy Adams

THE LOQUAT, ALSO KNOWN AS A JAPANESE MEDLAR, CHINESE PLUM AND JAPANESE PLUM, IS A SMALL, PEAR-SHAPED, YELLOW OR ORANGE FRUIT THAT TASTES LIKE A MIXTURE OF PEACH, ORANGE AND MANGO.

days. As with other fruits, they taste much better if allowed to ripen on the tree. To avoid tearing the fruit, clip each individually or remove the whole cluster before snipping the individual fruits. Ripe fruit can be refrigerated for up to two weeks.

Pruning is recommended on young trees soon after harvest to allow light into the center of the tree and to control terminal shoots that can harm the tree's growth and fruit production. Controlling the height of the tree allows for easier fruit-thinning and harvest, and the trees respond well - even to severe

Seeds can be used for propagation or for rootstock. For rootstock the seeds are taken from the fruit and planted in flats; when the seedlings are 6-7 inches high, they are transplanted. When the seedlings are big enough, they are used for grafting. Loquat trees grown using this method generally bear fruit in two to three years; those grown directly from seed take eight to 10 years to bear fruit.

Some popular orange-fleshed varieties of loquats are Big Jim, Early Red, and Gold Nugget. White-fleshed varieties include Advance, Champagne and Victory.

Interesting note: In Central America, loquat trees are sometimes grown specifically for fence posts and furniture because of the wood's hardness, durability and resistance to disease.

California Rare Fruit Growers Inc. provided most of this information, and much more about loquats, on the internet. Check it out to learn more.

UPCOMING (FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

WHEN: THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 10-11:30 A.M. WHERE: JON ARCHER CENTER, 1070 SCHIL-LINGER ROAD N. (MOBILE)

Topic: Hardscaping: Practical and Aesthetic Aspects of Design, Materials and Implementation Speaker: Justin Koen, Jubilee Landscaping

MASTER GARDENER HELPLINE: Call 1-877-252-4769, or send your gardening questions to coastalalabamagardening@gmail.com.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MOBILE COUNTY **MASTER GARDENER?**

Check out the May 12 Ask a Master Gardener column online at lagniappemobile.com/category/ style/gardening. The Master Gardener Course begins on Wednesday, Aug. 10. Here's a preview: Deadline to apply: June 8

Classes: Aug. 10 through Nov. 16

(9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.)

For more information: Call Diane at 251-574-8445 or email her at jda0002@aces.edu.











CAJUN CORNHOLE CLASSIC

THE 2ND ANNUAL CORNHONLE TOURNAMENT TO RAISE MONEY FOR SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS WILL BE THURS-DAY, JUNE 2, AT 5:30 P.M. IN CATHEDRAL SQUARE. TWENTY TWO-MAN TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN A SINGLE-ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT. \$200 CASH PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM. DOWNTOWN SWAG FOR THE TEAM WITH THE BEST NAME AND THE MOST GUSTO! FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER VISIT CAJUNCORNHOLECLASSIC.EVENTBRITE.COM OR CALL 251-434-8498.



Photo | Downtown Mobile Alliance

GENERAL INTEREST

Mobicon

Mobile's annual Comic Con is one of the fastest growing multi genre science fiction, cosplay, and gaming convention on the Gulf Coast. Mobicon embraces geek culture to the fullest and leaves no stone unturned in making sure we have something fun going on for all ages. From costume contests to organized play RPGs Mobicon is the place to be. All profits derived from the convention are used towards charity and the goodwill of the community. May 27-29, noon to 5 p.m. at the Renessance Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 S. Water St. More information available at mobilecomiccon.org.

Pepsi Beach Ball DropThe Pepsi Beach Ball Drop will take place Friday, May 27 from 5 until 8 p.m. on Main Street at The Wharf in Orange Beach. Thousands of beach balls will fall from the sky and specially marked beach balls are redeemable for prizes including Pepsi prize packs and concert tickets. Festivities include live music, face painting, live animals, rock climbing wall, camel rides, bouncy houses, water surf inflatable and more. The Spectra Sound & Light Spectacular shows are scheduled for 8:30 p.m., 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Beach balls will drop at 6:30 p.m.

S'mores on the Shore

Campfires, live music and s'mores will be the scene as the city of Gulf Shores hosts its annual S'mores on the Shore event on Thursday, May 26. The fun will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the west end of the Gulf Shores Public Beach. For more information call 251-968-2425.

Dentists with a Heart

On Friday, May 27, Dr. Jason Northcutt and the staff at Robertsdale Dental Care (18471 Wilters St.) are proudly hosting the 10th annual "Dentists with a Heart" event, begining at 7 a.m. and ending at noon. Tooth extractions will be the only dental service provided at the event. The event is absolutely free to anyone in need and open to residents of Mobile and Baldwin counties. For additional information connect with Robertsdale Dental Care on its Facebook page and join the official "Dentists with a Heart" event! Visit Robertsdale Dental online at www. RobertsdaleDental.com or call 251-571-

DIVA Memorial Day ceremony

The Dauphin Island Veterans Association will host its annual Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 30, beginning at 11 a.m. at Water Tower Plaza. In addition to the usual program, the names of three Dauphin Island veterans will be added to the memorial wall.

Memorial Day concert and lunch

Memorial Day barbecue and concert will be held at American Legion Post 199, 700 S. Mobile St. in Fairhope Monday, May 30. Barbecue chicken and pulled pork sandwiches and plates with sides, \$12, will be served from 11 a.m. until they are sold out. Concert will be held on Legion Beach featuring Lisa Zanghi and Scott Koehn from 2-4 p.m. and MidLife Crisis Classic Rock Band from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are just \$10, free for veterans and kids under 15.

For Girls Only

Springhill Medical Center's For Girls Only class is back. Dr. Lauren Self, OB/ GYN with Azalea City Physicians for Women, will guide a discussion for girls ages 8-12 about the physical changes they will experience as they mature. Class is free and will be held on Thursday, May 26, at 6 p.m. A light meal will be provided. This class fills up very quickly. Reservations are required, call 251-460-5447. Please give the names of the young lady and the parent who will accompany them. A contact phone number and how you heard about the class is also appreciated.

West Mobile Farmer's Market

West Mobile Farmer's Market is sponsored by Christ United Methodist Church every Tuesday and Thursday,

3-6 p.m., on the west side (Hillcrest entrance) of church property at 6101 Grelot Road. The market features locally grown produce, seafood, baked goods and other items. For more information call 251-342-0462.

Summer outdoor farmer's market

The city of Fairhope hosts a summer outdoor farmer's market from 3-6 p.m. on Thursday evenings through July 9. The market will be set up behind the Fairhope Public Library on Bancroft Street downtown and will feature local farmers, bakers, fresh Baldwin County produce, fresh-cut flowers, local honey, plants, baked goods and more. The library will hold story times and children's activities at 4 p.m. each Thursday at the market. For general information or for information about becoming a vendor, call 251-929-1466.

Market on the Square

Market on the Square runs from 7:30 a.m. to noon every Saturday through July 30 in Cathedral Square downtown. This time of year you can buy locally grown tomatoes, potatoes, sweet corn, cantaloupes, watermelons, plants and flowers, as well as seafood, baked goods, pastas, casseroles, pies, handcrafted goods and much more.

Brown Bag in Bienville Square

Come out and listen to the soothing







CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY 26, 2016 - JUNE 1, 2016

sounds of live jazz as you lunch in Bienville Square around the historic Ketchum Fountain. Catt Sirten sets up live musicians and the city sets up tables for your enjoyment each Wednesday in the spring. To make your Brown Baggin' easier, stop in at your favorite Bienville Square eatery and ask for the Brown Bag special. They will provide you with your lunch-to-go in a nifty "Brown Bag" that you can easily transport to the square and recycle in one of the Keep Mobile Beautiful recycle bins. Wednesdays through May, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Dauphin Island Boardwalk Talks

Boardwalk Talks are held the first and third Wednesday of each month at 11:15 a.m. Come to the Estuarium to participate in a dialog with the experts at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. 101 Bienville Blyd. The Northern Gulf Institute presents a series of informal conversations about all things scientific in the Gulf of Mexico region. For more information or with questions, call 251-861-2141.

FUNDRAISERS

Cajun Cornhole Classic

The 2nd annual cornhonle tournament to raise money for Springboard to Success will be Thursday, June 2, at 5:30 p.m. in Cathedral Square. Twenty twoman teams will compete in a singleelimination tournament, \$200 cash prize for the winning team. Downtown swag for the team with the Best Name and the Most Gusto! For more information or to register visit cajuncornholeclassic. eventbrite.com or call 251-434-8498.

ARTS

Last Friday Art Night

Dauphin Island Heritage and Art Gallery is where it's happening on the Island on the last Friday of each month. Last Friday Art Night features shopping for local art, art demonstrations. food, drink and music. Dauphin Island Heritage and Art Gallery is located at 1008 Alabama Ave. For more information call 251-861-3300.

MUSEUMS

"Every Obiect Has a Story"

The History Museum of Mobile is proud to announce its summer exhibit, "Every Object Has a Story." Museum staff members thoughtfully chose a collection of seldom-seen objects to showcase some of the unique treasures in the museum's vault. These objects include items representing Mobile's cultural, social, political and artistic history. "Every Object Has a Story" will open at the History Museum of Mobile during Memorial Day weekend and run through July. For more information about the exhibit, contact Curator of Collections Lori McDuffie at atrockholdl@historymuseumofmobile. com or by phone at 251-208-7420.

"Treasures of NOAA's Ark"

At GulfQuest's first traveling exhibit, visitors will discover how NOAA charts seas, protects and conserves the nation's marine resources and detects potential hurricanes and tsunamis. By navigating a warehouse of crates containing historic artifacts, visitors will get a glimpse of the groundbreaking technologies developed by NOAA and its early predecessors that have helped save lives and expand our knowledge of the globe. The exhibit also highlights past and present pioneers who made significant contributions to our understanding of shore, sea and sky. For more information visit gulfquest.org or call 251-436-8901.

"Colors of the Coast"

A call to artists, the annual "Colors of the Coast" is a juried art show presented by Cathedral Square Gallery and title sponsor Wintzell's Oyster House, with awards totaling over \$2.000. to be held in June. For more information and a prospectus, visit CSG's Facebook page or the gallery. Take-in is June 4 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information contact Linda Tenhundfeld at lhall699@aol.com or 251-533-8949.

Tea for Two

Each Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m., the Fairhope Museum of History hosts a tea where guests enjoy a cup of delicious Baldwin County tea, cookies and a lecture on an interesting aspect of Fairhope history. The May 31 speaker will be Kennedy McLeod, who has taken photo trips around the world on sailing vessels and produced an incredible slideshow of scenes of the Caribbean, Galapagos Islands and the Asian Sea. This is a "best of" slideshow. For more information call 251-929-1471.

Thursdays at MMoA

Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. the Mobile Museum of Art offers free admission to all visitors. Join MMoA each week to experience the museum in new and exciting ways throughout the year. No reservations are necessary. MMoA is at 4850 Museum Drive.

SPORTING EVENTS/ **ACTIVITIES**

Bellingrath Summer Garden Walk

Join the horticultural management team of Bellingrath Gardens and Home on Wednesday, June 1, at 10:30 a.m. for a guided tour of the gardens to see summer displays, floral borders and new additions. Get ideas and advice for your own summer displays! It's the first of Bellingrath's Wonderful Wednesdays series, which continue through July. The event is included in the regular admission fee (\$13 for adults, \$7.50 for children ages 5-12, free to Bellingrath members and kids 4 and younger).

Publix Grandman Triathlon

In its 12th year, the Grandman Triathlon has become one of Fairhope's premier annual events, attracting individual and team racers of all ages and skill levels from ground the Southeast and beyond. Racers begin the race by jumping from the end of Fairhope Pier into Mobile Bay and swimming one-third of a mile to the shore. Following the swim, racers bike 18 miles, beginning up a steep hill before continuing through the quaint city of Fairhope. Racers conclude the triathlon with a 5K run alongside scenic Mobile Bay, crossing the finish line at Fairhope Park. Proceeds from the race benefit three local nonprofit organizations: Mobile Baykeeper, myTeam Triumph: Southern Alabama, and Gulf Coast Area Triathletes. The race is Saturday, June 4, at 7 a.m. To register or volunteer, please visit www.thegrandman.com. Call 251-433-4229 or contact grandman@ mobilebaykeeper.org for more information.

YMCA Golf Classic Tournament

The YMCA of South Alabama invites the communities of Mobile and Baldwin counties to tee up for a good cause at its 7th annual Golf Classic Tournament on Friday, June 3, at

TimberCreek Golf Course in Spanish Fort. The tournament will follow a fourperson scramble format, with check-in beginning at 7:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$100 per golfer and \$400 per team, which includes a light breakfast and lunch. Proceeds will go toward the YMCA's Campaign for Youth & Families, which is aimed at ensuring all children and families, regardless of income, have a chance to benefit from the YMCA's life-changing programs and services. Interested participants can learn more and register online at www.ysal.org or in person at any of the YMCA of South Alabama's five branches.



Photo | Mobile BayBears

Mobile BayBears

The Mobile BayBears are back in action for a 20th season of MiLB Double-A baseball at Hank Aaron Stadium in Mobile. Beginning May 25, the BayBears play a two-game stint against visiting Biloxi, followed by three games away against Biloxi. For more information or tickets call 251-479-BEAR.

Ballroom dance

Azalea Ballroom Dance Club hosts dances with live music the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 7-9:30 p.m., \$10 admission. A dance class taught by professional instructors is available prior to the dance from 6:30-7 p.m. for a \$10 fee. This event is BYOB, coolers, snacks. Partner not necessary. Beginners are welcome. At Via! Health, Fitness & Enrichment Center, 1717 Dauphin St. (Mobile). For more information email Cindy Younablood. president, cyoungblood9278@gmail. com call 251-623-9183 or visit www azaleaballroomdanceclub.com.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY 26, 2016 - JUNE 1, 2016

Irish dance lessons

The Maccrossan School of Irish Dance is offering beginner Irish dance lessons every Saturday morning at the Azalea City Center for Performing Arts, 63 Midtown Park E. (Mobile). Classes are available for ages 4 through adult. Learn the beautiful art form of Irish dance with instruction in jig, reel, figure and ceili dancing! For more details please contact Julie Ann Black at maccrossanirishdance@yahoo.com or call 228-239-2422.

Ballroom dance

The Moonlight Chasse Ballroom Dance Society hosts dance classes the first and third Monday of every month, with dancing from 7:00 until 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$10. This event is BYOB and there is no need to bring a partner. Beginners are welcome. Fitzpen Place, 11247 State Highway 31 (Spanish Fort). For more information email Cassie Fishbein at cassief13@aol.com.

Bridge lessons

The Mobile Bridge Center offers free bridge lessons each Tuesday beginning at 6 p.m. at the Mobile Bridge Center, 1510 University Blvd. Arrive a few minutes early to register. If you have questions call the Bridge Center at 251-666-2147 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

WORKSHOPS

About Boating Safely

A state-approved course on boating safety taught by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors will be held June 25 and Aug. 6 at the Orange Beach Community Center (27235 Canal Road). The course meets Alabama's and most other states' Boat Operator's License requirement. Cost is \$35 per student, textbook included, or \$45 for two family members sharing a book. The cost also includes instructional materials and lunch. For more information or to register call 251-284-1461.

SELF-IMPROVEMENT

Addiction counseling

Narconon would like to remind families the use of addicting drugs is on the rise. Take steps to protect your family from drug use. If you know anyone who

is struggling with drug addiction, get them the help they need. Call for a free brochure on the signs of addiction for all drugs. Narconon also offers free screenings and referrals. Call 1-800-431-1754 or visit DrugAbuseSolution.com.

Top Cats Toastmasters

Top Cats Toastmasters meet every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. at the Red Lobster near the southeast corner of Airport Boulevard and Azalea Road in Mobile. You can practice your speaking and listening skills and learn to think on your feet in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Dues are \$43 twice a year, and lunch must be purchased. Togstmasters International is a worldwide organization. For further information call 251-344-2938.

Downtown Toastmasters

The Downtown Mobile Toastmasters Club 2815 hosts a weekly educational lunch meeting at T.P. Crockmiers (261 Dauphin St., Mobile), from noon until 1 p.m. on Tuesdays. Practice your speaking, listening and leadership skills in a relaxed, friendly environment. Lunch must be purchased. Our dues are \$42 twice yearly. Toastmasters International is a worldwide organization. For more information call 251-404-3924.

Jubilee Toastmasters

Jubilee Toastmasters meet each Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m at Homestead Village in Fairhope, in the Camellia Room. You can bring your lunch. We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills. The meetings are open to anyone over 18 years of age. For more information visit www.9032.toastmastersclubs.org.

Eastern Shore Toastmasters

The Eastern Shore Toastmasters Club hosts a weekly meeting at Daphne United Methodist Church (2401 Main St.), in the Community Life Center on the second floor, 6-7 p.m. on Thursdays. Practice your speaking, listening and leadership skills in a friendly, relaxed and supportive environment. Guests are welcome! Visit us on Facebook (facebook.com/ EasternShoreTM) or email contact-8422@ toastmastersclubs.org.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Mobile City Council

The Mobile City Council meets every Tuesday at Government Plaza, 205 Government St. Pre-council meeting begins at 9 a.m. in the first-floor conference room; council meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. in the first-floor auditorium. For more information visit www.cityofmobile.org.

Mobile Planning Commission

The Mobile City Planning Commission meets the first and third Thursday in the Government Plaza auditorium, 205 Government St., at 2 p.m. For agendas, minutes, zoning information and more visit urban.cityofmobile.org.

Daphne City Council

The Daphne City Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Daphne City Hall, 1705 Main St. City Council work sessions are the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. For more information visit daphneal.com.

Fairhope City Council

The Fairhope City Council meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Fairhope City Hall, 161 N. Section St. City Council work sessions are held before each council meeting at 4:30 p.m. in the Delchamps Room at City Hall. For more information visit cofairhope.com.

Fairhope Planning Commission

The Fairhope Planning Commission meets on the first Monday of each month at 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at Fairhope City Hall, 161 N. Section St. For more information visit cofairhope.com.

Foley City Council

The Foley City Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Foley City Hall, 407 E. Laurel Ave. Work sessions begin at 4 p.m. before each regularly scheduled meeting. For more information visit cityoffoley.org.

Spanish Fort City Council

The Spanish Fort City Council meets

on the first and third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Spanish Fort Community Center, 7361 Spanish Fort Blvd. Work sessions begin at 5 p.m. before each regularly scheduled meeting. For more information visit cityofspanishfort.com.

Baldwin County Commission

The Baldwin County Commission meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the County Commission Chambers at the Baldwin County Administration Building, 322 Courthouse Square, Bay Minette. Work sessions are the second and fourth Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. with the location rotating between the Baldwin County Administration Building in Bay Minette, the Foley Satellite Courthouse, the Fairhope Satellite Courthouse and the Baldwin County Central Annex Building in Robertsdale. For more information visit baldwincountyal.gov.

Baldwin County Planning Commission

The Baldwin County Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Baldwin County Central Annex, 22251 Palmer St., Robertsdale. For more information visit baldwincountyal.gov.

Saraland City Council: Second and fourth Thursday, 6 p.m., 716 Saraland Blvd. S., 251-675-5103.

Chickasaw City Council: Second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., 224 N. Craft Highway, 251-452-6450.

Citronelle City Council: Second and fourth Thursday, 6:30 p.m., 19135 Main St., 251-866-7973.

Creola City Council: Second and fourth Thursday, 6 p.m., 190 Dead Lake Road, #A. 251-675-8142.

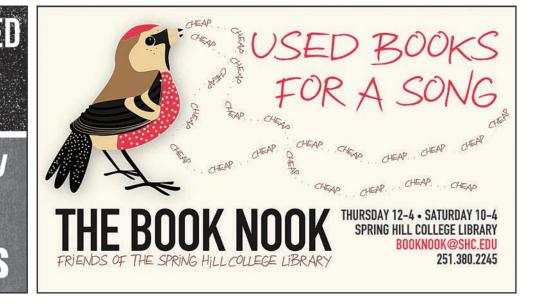
Satsuma City Council: First and

third Tuesday, 6 p.m. (working), 7 p.m. (regular session), 5464 Old Highway 43, 251-675-1440.

Semmes City Council: First and third Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., 7875 Moffett Road, 251-649-8811.

SEND YOUR EVENTS TO EVENTS@LAGNIAPPEMOBILE.COM





Catt Sirten's 'Avalon' finds its way to PBS

BY ROB HOLBERT/MANAGING EDITOR | rholbert@lagniappemobile.com

hile it's been a couple of years in evolution, Catt Sirten's "Live From Avalon" is having its first live-recorded show highlighting local music hit the airwaves of Alabama Public Television

Thursday night May 26, from 7-9 p.m. at Mobile Public Library's Bernheim Hall, the popular band Roman Street will help see Sirten's vision to fruition. The well-known radio personality and musical impresario has been working for a couple of years to see "Live From Avalon" spread Mobile's music statewide.

Sirten has spent the past three decades working to improve the Azalea City music scene through his radio shows "Catt's Sunday Jazz Brunch" and "Radio Avalon." In 2014 he began recording "Live From Avalon," hoping to see it develop into a program in the vein of the very popular "Austin City Limits" series. His goal from the start has been to see Mobile-area music brought to a much larger audience.

Sirten has pointed to Roman Street as an example of Mobile's musical diversity and strength — a flamenco-influenced acoustic group that seems to defy the stereotypes of what might be popular in a midsized Southern city. But he has pushed "Live From Avalon" because he thinks the amount of quality, original music being created in this area deserves recognition.

Tickets for the Roman Street show are \$15 and can be purchased via the "Live From Avalon" Facebook page.

Four years later ...

It's been almost exactly four years to the day since Newhouse's Advance Publications announced the formation of the Alabama Media Group — the organization that ultimately took over operation of the Press-Register, Birmingham News and Huntsville Times

On May 25, 2012, a news story heralded the "digitally focused media company" that would be coming in the fall and also dropped the bombshell that the cities under its control would see their dailies go to three days a week production. The layoffs and cutbacks that would follow were portended by the now-infamous headline announcing "exciting changes" for Press-Register readers.

"The change is designed to reshape how Alabama's leading media companies deliver award-winning local news, sports and entertainment coverage in an increasingly digital age. The Alabama Media Group will dramatically expand its newsgathering efforts around the clock, seven days a week, while offering enhanced printed newspapers on a schedule of three days a week," read an al.com story at the time.

It's interesting to look back at the announcement and the grandiosity of what was offered and, four years later, the reality. Most, if not all, of those heading up AMG at that time are no longer with the company, nor are the vast, vast majority of those who worked with the three newspapers at the time. Circulation figures now are ghosts of what they were just four years ago, and, at least in Mobile, the Press-Register's oncelegendary clout is gone.

While there are still a few familiar bylines, the number of reporters — or content generators, or whatever they call a reporter now — has plummeted and most of the names you see are new to the area, often replacing someone who was new to the area not so long ago.

"We're excited to bring together the quality journalism of

The Birmingham News, The Press-Register of Mobile and The Huntsville Times and the up-to-the minute immediacy of al.com," then-company head Cindy Martin said. "This is obviously a dramatic change, but we believe our award-winning journalism, top-notch advertising services and the largest website in Alabama position us to be a healthy, growing company."

It's hard to look at what Alabama has been left with from these newspapers that brought billions into the Newhouse coffers over the years and not think this has been a painstakingly planned destruction of a big part of the state's media. Right now it seems so few people are paying attention to what were once three of the state's largest newspapers, that even the good work they do goes mostly unnoticed.

In Mobile most of the reporters who once plied the hallways of Government Plaza, attended the school board and water board meetings, or kept an eye on the county have found new lives away from the daily (or thrice-weekly) deadlines. Into that void Lagniappe and the television stations have climbed, trying to provide as much important coverage as possible, but it's definitely a different world.

I would certainly argue with Ms. Martin's statements that these changes four years ago have left a "healthy, growing company.'

It's hard to envision a big comeback for these newspapers and al.com, but they do still have deep pockets and technology may eventually reward them for being the first to jump feetfirst into the digital ocean. Right now, though, looking back at what was said four years ago, it's hard to see the decision as anything more than an abject failure.

R O S S

ACROSS

- 1. Waited for a baby,
- maybe
 6. Far from friends
 10. Dugout supply
- 14. Airborne
- 15. Bronte's fictional gov-
- 16. Choice in fencing 17. Discontinue, as rela-

- 18. Clearing house? 19. Cost of a ticket, per-
- naps 20. Makes free of bacteria 22. Farrier's aid 23. Fred, to Pebbles 24. Role rote

- Cured, in a way
- 29. Knife handle? Angry, and then some Capitulate
- Grave responsibility
- 38. Lip-smacking 39. Woodworker's groove 40. Malachite and lapis
- lazuli 42. Made over 43. Pen pal chatter? Angesthetize
- Food Network stars
- 48. Hook, as a crook 49. Campus building 50. Weatherman
- 50. Weathermo 57. Opposed 58. OPEC V.I.P.
- 59. Lake on the Nevada

- 60. Gable's place 61. Cultivate, as a garden 62. Dale on Buttermilk 63. Spearer, of sorts

- 64. Make-meet link 65. Franklin or Jefferson, religiously

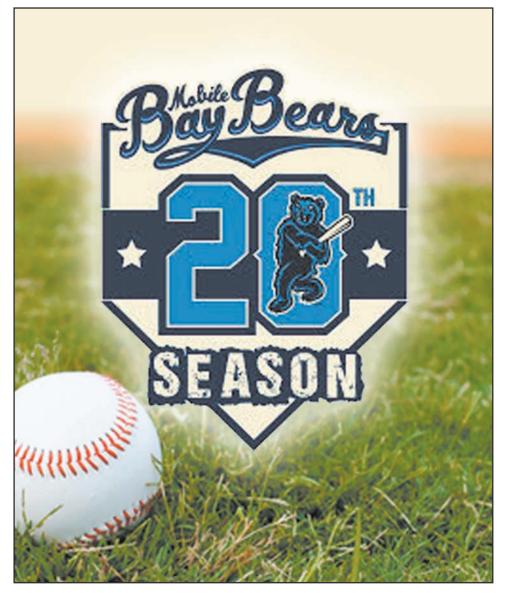
DOWN

- Football call
- Act as a lookout, say
- Sheltered spot

- Duue or green starte
 Put down
 Like a dump's aroma
 Bailiff's bellow 4. Glade or green starter
- Bailiff's bellow Coastal raptor
- 9. Film studio's many 10. Got close to
- 11. Like some colonies 12. Grammar subject
- 13. Slowly trickles21. Dog in literature
- Cry from a selfish child
- 21. Dog in literature
 24. Be a make-up artist?
 25. No walk in the park
 26. Cry from a selfish child
 27. Eggs, in biology
 28. Resuscitation routine
 29. They move pupils
 30. Food scraps

- Like some wit Lost seaworthiness
- 34. Absurdist art movement

- 35. Change your story? 36. Used a saddle
- 38. Amount of bricks 41. "Angela's Ashes" sequel
- 42. Returned some cash
- 44. Black Hawk's people 45. Boardroom illustration 46. Capital since 1976 47. First name in pop
- 48. Pocket protector wearers 50. Honor with a party
- Black cat, possibly Peeling One way to gain inter-
- est? 54. Cambodian's neighbor Ages upon ages 56. Doctors often prescribe it
 - ANSWERS ON PAGE 44



Grandman Triathlon helps engage participants with special needs



BY J, MARK BRYANT/SPORTS WRITER | sports@lagniappemobile.com | Twitter @goulaguy

or many triathlon participants, winning is not the ultimate goal. Completing the three demanding regimens can provide plenty of satisfaction.

However, there is a higher motivation for some. It is not enough for them to just compete. They are there to help those with needs reach the finish line.

When the 12th annual Publix Grandman Triathlon takes place in Fairhope June 4, a special group of competitors will be present. They will be with myTeam Triumph: Southern Alabama.

"This is an athletic ride-along program created for children, teens, adults and veterans with disabilities who would normally not be able to experience events such as triathlons or road races," said Hanlon Walsh of Mobile Baykeeper, one of the Grandman's main

Clint Martin of Fairhope has competed in previous triathlons, including the 2013 Grandman. It was learning of the exploits of Dick Hoyt and his son, Rick, that changed his approach to the races. Despite the fact that Rick Hoyt suffers from cerebral palsy, he and his father have used a specially designed tandem bike and wheelchair to compete in 255 triathlons, 32 Boston Marathons and six Ironman triathlons.

"That story inspired me," Martin said. "I reached out to the Hoyts' foundation and said I wanted to do something in South Alabama. That is how I learned about my Team Triumph.

The international group has 31 chapters in the United States. Martin started the local nonprofit group and began looking for volunteers to help. Those in the program are known as Captains (the participants) and Angels (the assistants). A different Angel helps with each phase of the race.

At last year's Grandman, Martin started the swimming section of the race by pulling a boat that carried the Captain and an Angel. Once on land, the Captain's father took over for the bicycle ride. A family friend then stepped in to complete the run with the Captain.

"I wish you could have seen the impact they had at last year's race," Justine Herlihy, who also works with Baykeeper, said. "There was nothing more empowering than watching them cross the finish line. It was cheers and tears.

Worthy cause

The Grandman is the largest fundraiser of the year for Mobile Baykeeper, a nonprofit environmental group working to preserve and protect the Mobile Bay watershed. Another beneficiary has been the Gulf Coast Area Triathletes.

"After last year, Mobile Baykeeper knew they wanted to invest some of the proceeds back to myTeam Triumph's mission," Herlihy said. "The Grandman event supports some really good causes."

"We are very humbled and honored by being selected," Martin said. "The triathlon conversion chairs cost \$3,500. We have three of them, and that is why we are able to have three teams this year.

After the competitors finish the water segment, they are transported to the conversion chair that is pulled behind a bike. Once they get to the run, a wheel is added to the front of the chair and it is pushed down the road.

'We don't have the equipment to handle any more Captains," Martin said. "We have some corporate sponsors stepping in, so we hope to add more teams next year.'



Photo I Courtesy of Mobile Baykeepe

THE PUBLIX GRANDMAN TRIATHLON IS AN ATHLETIC RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM CREATED FOR CHILDREN. TEENS. ADULTS AND VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES WHO WOULD NORMALLY NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH EVENTS. THE 12TH ANNUAL EVENT TAKES PLACE JUNE 4 IN FAIRHOPE.

While this will only be the group's second triathlon, they have competed in the First Light half-marathon, the Joe Cain 5K race and the Spring Fever Chase 10K run. They will take a break after the Grandman and pick up some small races in the fall before concluding with the Senior Bowl 10K in November.

Besides the Angels in the race, several other volunteers are present to provide assistance should an emergency arise. Because of the importance of the mission, Martin has 90 people ready to help.

'People go to a race and see what we do, and they want to be a part," Martin said. "Once they get involved, all their race results take a back seat. They want to help someone else who would normally never participate.

With additional funding, Martin wants to get more people in the races

"It is not limited to children," he said. "We have had Captains up to 60 years old. I had one person who called and wanted to push his 90-year-old grandmother in the race. We want to help so many different people with so many different disabilities. There have been no cases where we had to say 'no.' We find a way to make it

To learn more about the group, visit www.mtt-southernalabama. org, call 251-458-8999 or send an email to cmartin@mtt-southernalabama.org.

Grand day in Fairhope

Mobile Baykeeper will turn 20 years old next year, and it has been a part of the Grandman since the beginning. Casi Callaway, Baykeeper's executive director, has served as the race director

"Our mission is clean water, clean air and a healthy community," Walsh said. "This event highlights all three."

The actual race will begin that Saturday at 7 a.m. The triathlon starts with a dive off the Fairhope Municipal Pier and a one-thirdmile swim back to shore. Next is an 18-mile bicycle course that goes past the Grand Hotel (the inspiration for the event's name). Finally there is a 3.1K run along the bay. A post-race party will follow at the Fairhope Pier.

The day before the Grandman, from 4 to 7 p.m., a health and fitness expo is planned at Fairhope Pier. There will be vendors for bicycles, running and swimming offering apparel and nutrition tips. During the last hour, special training for first-time participants will help them set up their bikes and learn what gears to use on the course.

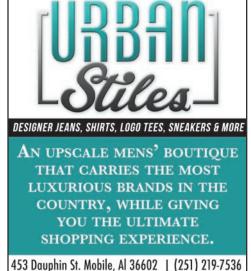
Walsh said besides individual entries, people who do not want to do all three events could join as a team. "One can do each segment, which makes it a great way to have some fun," he said.

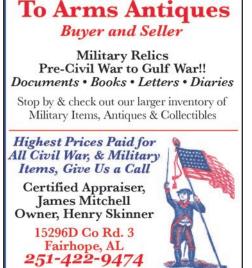
The entry fee is \$105 for individuals and \$215 for a team. To learn more about the race, to register or to volunteer, visit www. grandman.com, call 251-433-4229 or email to grandman@mobilebaykeeper.org.

The race has continued to grow over the years, and last year had 775 participants. When you add in the volunteers with families and friends, an estimated 2,500 spectators came to the Grandman.

"It is a big money-making weekend for Fairhope," Herlihy said. "The race goes through some of the most beautiful areas of the city. A lot of families bring the kids and make a weekend of it."







State's first female justice details her life and career

BY ERIC MANN/REPORTER | eric@lagniappemobile.com

from her humble beginnings picking potatoes in Loxley, to her principled stand against segregation-era politics in Selma, to her 24-year career as the first female justice on the Alabama Supreme Court, Janie Shores has never backed down from a challenge.

Shores was elected to the Alabama Supreme Court in 1974 and in 1993 was on President Bill Clinton's short list to be his nominee for a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court, one eventually filled by Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

A new book published by Point Clear-based Intellect Publishing, "Just Call Me Janie: The Unlikely Story of the First Woman Elected to Alabama's Supreme Court," details her life and career.

Shores moved to Loxley as a child when her father moved the family to the area to be settled before he joined the Navy during World War II. Like most of her friends, Shores worked in the

"All the men were off at war, so all the children were out there picking up potatoes," Shores said. "After a while, I was selected to keep up with the baskets that others picked, so that was much easier than being the one who was out picking up all

She attended Robertsdale High School and after her graduation in 1950, she boarded a Greyhound bus bound for Mobile to find a job. She found work dictating for solo practitioner Vince Kilborn Jr., a prominent Mobile-area attorney.

"In those days, if you were a girl and you graduated from a high school in Baldwin County, everyone knew at least two things about you: you knew how to type and you knew how to take shorthand," Shores said. "I was so intrigued by the law that one day while [Kilborn] was dictating I made a remark that caused him to say I had a good mind for it. That got me thinking about going to law school.

In order to pursue a career in law, Shores moved to Selma and enrolled in undergraduate courses at Judson College. She earned

a bachelor's degree at Samford University and enrolled at the University of Alabama Law School.

During her three years at Alabama, Shores said there were only five women to pass through the law program at the time, and she was the only woman in her graduating class. She also served as the editor of the law review.

After her 1959 law school graduation, and with Kilborn's recommendation, Shores secured a job clerking for state Supreme Court Judge Robert Tennant Simpson. After that, she opened her own law practice in Selma.

"I married a man from Selma and we moved there to be near to his family," Shores said. "His family was prominent and they were very nice to me."

However, Shores said her father-in-law had a request she could not agree to.

"We had a parting of the ways when I refused to join the White Citizens Council," Shores said. "There was absolutely no compromising about that on my end, so I left."

After Selma, she moved to Birmingham, where she became the first female professor at Cumberland School of Law for nine years before running for Supreme Court, a race she won in 1974.

"I was able to win by virtue of the fact that I had good relations with the lawvers in the state who knew me and I also had nine years' [worth] of law students running around the state who knew me," Shores said.

Shores said her greatest accomplishment on the state supreme court was that, in 24 years, she never wrote a proposed opinion that failed to receive a majority vote. She also said more often than not the court did not affirm cases on appeal without writing an opinion. If a party asked the court for oral argument, the court granted that request.

Today, Shores said, the court rarely grants oral argument requests and instead often relies on briefs filed by attorneys to decide cases. While it means more work for the court, Shores

said If a party asked for oral argument, it was granted.

"I learned a lot about the law during oral arguments, as opposed to just reading the parties' briefs," Shores said. "I thought the outcome of the case was often affected by the oral arguments. As a member of the court, you write the opinion. That's important because the opinions of the supreme court become precedent for future cases.

Her career on the court ended after four terms, when she chose not to seek re-election in 1998. Shores continued to help the justices with their heavy caseload, working as a supernumerary justice until 2001, when Chief Justice Roy Moore dismissed

Just three years later, Shores would serve as one of seven members on a special supreme court, made up of retired but active former justices, who heard Moore's disciplinary appeal related to his suspension from the court. At the time, Moore refused to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the Alabama judicial building against the order of a federal judge. Eventually, the panel voted 7-0 not to reinstate Moore.

Today, Shores is an advocate for revising the state constitution, which she said is "antiquated and almost useless." She was a member of a 2003 blue-ribbon commission charged with writing a new constitution, which was eventually written but never approved by the state.

"We wrote a good one, and I guess it is sitting on a shelf somewhere in Montgomery," Shores said. "It never went anywhere."

Shores said she would encourage young women to pursue the study of law, which she said can open doors to virtually any career path they would choose.

"The study of law is logical," Shores said. "It is not about memorizing facts and being able to reproduce them on the final examination. The study of law teaches you to analyze and to think. It is a mental discipline. A law degree opens a person up to many different careers other than law."









Capricorn's caped crusade

BY DR. ZODIAC/ASTROLOGY GUY

GEMINI (5/21-6/21) — Following a successful Hangout Music Festival experience, you and your "floppiness" will decide to make the short jaunt to Orange Beach for a few extra days of pleasure. You'll make sure to Uber over there and stay in someone's smelly garage — you know, because you're a darn rebel. The Orange Beach City Council (tribunal, or small community campfire) will ban you from their paradise. You'll immediately come to downtown Mobile and get your jollies by boiling contraband crawfish on the sidewalk. You're not a very nice person.

CANCER (6/22-7/22) — You'll be hired by a group called the "Yellow Smiles Society" to help protest a proposed Publix coming to Midtown. You'll hold up signs, vandalize the "L" in the grocery chain's brochures and yell at the upcoming planning commission meeting. You'll find out too late, however, that the "Yellow Smiles Society" is actually funded by Wal-Mart. The megagrocer will swoop in and build only a giant parking lot to really stick it to residents. On the bright side, parking in Midtown will be effortless.

LEO (7/23-8/23) — You'll spot Lenny Kravitz two weeks after Hangout Fest ends. You'll be thrilled that he's found coastal Alabama so inviting and fun. When you stop him and ask for a quick photo, he'll confide in you the real reason he's still having brunch at Spot of Tea. Apparently, he'll say he's afraid of bridges, overpasses and tunnels. Instead of taking a chance, he will decide to rent a downtown loft and make Mobile his new home. Eat your heart out, Ryan Reynolds!

VIRGO (8/24-9/22) — Seizing upon the internet

stardom of Chewbacca Mask Lady, you'll wear the Wookie's costume and film yourself performing everyday tasks like taking out the garbage. The video won't go viral anywhere except north Baldwin County, where residents will believe it is footage of Bigfoot. The rumor will attract the "Finding Bigfoot" cast to Perdido, where they will stumble around in the woods and find inconclusive evidence of the monster's existence.

LIBRA (9/23-10/22) — A parent of three children, you will take a side job as a health product distributor in order to prepare for the coming wave of summer expenses. You'll soon realize no one will buy protein shakes from a bearded and balding fat guy. Undeterred, you'll press on, eventually rising to the top of your multi-level marketing pyramid scheme by convincing potential customers that a photo of professional wrestler Mick Foley is actually a photo of you before protein shakes.

SCORPIO (10/23-11/21) — You'll pursue a career as a barista at one of the 23 coffee shops on the Eastern Shore. Although you've never worked in food service and your only coffee experience is the Keurig machine in your kitchen, you did receive an art history degree from a college in New England and you have an awesome summer scarf. You'll be hired by the shop based on your Facebook profile photo alone. You'll win "barista of the year" after creating a delicious free-range chicken latte

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/22) — You'll spend Memorial Day honoring the country's war dead by drinking a case of beer, making dismissive

remarks about unfortunate people and overeating barbecued meat topped with a corn syrupsweetened sauce. Nothing quite honors personal sacrifice like blasting Lynyrd Skynyrd and flying the rebel flag atop a pontoon boat anchored off Robinson Island. Your patriotism will shine as you slur through such songs as "Tuesday's Gone" and "Saturday Night Special," but the fireworks in your mind will explode when you add the phrase "Roll Tide Roll" to the chorus of "Sweet Home Alabama.'

CAPRICORN (12/23-1/19) - Donning a superhero mask and cape, you'll fly to South Africa to get revenge for a local politician who was injured in a robbery. Referring to yourself as Councilman DJ Squall, your superpower is conjuring up a storm of electronic dance music capable of laying waste to all listeners and sinking passing ships. You won't ever find the perpetrators or recover the politician's personal effects, but you'll be headlining festivals and dating Taylor Swift by the end of the year.

AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18) — You'll become paranoid after you read a post on a group email list asking residents to cooperate with an upcoming door-to-door survey by state officials "wearing lime green and orange safety vests," allegedly checking citrus plants in homeowners' backvards for something called "citrus greening." Certain "citrus" is really a code word for strains of marijuana named after citrus fruit, you'll move your Orange Kush and Lime Haze plants out of your shed and into a spare closet, just in the nick of time.



PISCES (2/19-3/20) — After a typo in the Texas Republican party platform suggests the entire Lone Star State might be gay, you'll begin to wonder if other long-held political beliefs could have stemmed from careless errors. Looking back, you'll wonder if "trickle-down economics" was actually intended to be "fickle pound economics" - Reagan's absurdly passive plan to move America toward the metric system that was never realized. For weeks, this small error will keep you awake at night as you run through the possibilities of what America "might have been."

ARIES (3/21-4/19) — Unfamiliar with recent updates to the Facebook messenger app, you'll find yourself an unwitting internet star when you live stream a 45-minute video of your face during a bowel movement. Though you won't notice, a rogue swipe of the thumb will have you broadcasting a decidedly private moment to a world of followers in cyberspace. American entertainment being what it is, though, the stunt will see you promptly offered a new reality TV show and eventually secure you a position in President Trump's cabinet.

TAURUS (4/20-5/20) — A week after the health department ends the tradition of rotating crawfish boils downtown, the people of Mobile will revolt. Taking to the streets, the group of angry restaurant patrons will storm a MAWSS facility and add several pounds of unused cajun seasoning to the city's drinking water supply. After continued attacks from both sides, the city will finally yield - once again allowing mudbugs to boil on Dauphin. Unfortunately, the water shall remain cajun flavored for the better part of the next decade.



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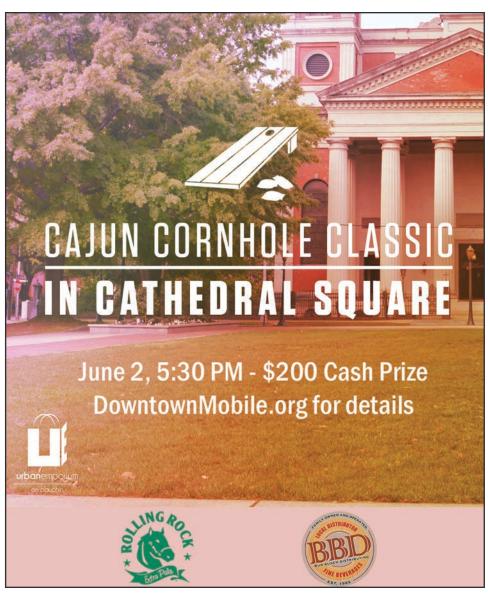
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People let it all hang out and Mobile gets some Kravitz love



BY BOOZIE BEER NUES/SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

nother Hangout Festival has come and gone. The music was played and memories were made. If only we could remember everything that happened, but Boozie's motto for the weekend was "anything could happen." And by "anything" I meant meet famous people, get upgraded to VIP, find someone to marry at the Hangout chapel, get sand in places that I didn't know sand could get. But I guess that's part of it, so here are some of the "anythings" that happened.

Lenny hangs out in Mobtown

Sure, Hangout brings plenty of people through Mobile, as people realized when traffic started backing up on Thursday. But some lucky folks became really aware of it when they spotted headliner Lenny Kravitz hanging out downtown. My music spy reported Lenny and his band had rented out Soul Kitchen to get in some practice before their Hangout set on Sunday.

The restaurant spies were also buzzing about how Lenny was spotted at Noble South and Royal Scam. Side note: Boozie feels like every celeb that visits Mobile dines at Royal Scam. Is the allure of the tuna martini? Or is there some celebrity group chat where they list cities and what restaurants are good and where you can fly under the radar? If there isn't, someone should invent that. You're welcome!

Anywho, Lenny also made a stop at BackFlash Antiques! This was no ordinary celebrity-spotting because, well, Lenny gave store owner Charlana a shoutout on his Facebook page! This post read as follows: "Whilst walking around downtown Mobile, AL, I discovered this beautiful lady Charlana and her shop BackFlash Antiques. Now off to The Hangout Music Festival, Gulf Shores, Alabama." If you have ever been in BackFlash you know how sweet Charlana is, but for Lenny to say it - well, it just makes it so much cooler!

Lenny didn't stop there either. Once at Hangout he kept raving about Mobile from the stage and how much he enjoyed it. All I've gotta say is, hopefully he will be back to preform at a little place across the street from BackFlash Antiques called the Saenger!

Hangout shenanigans

It all started on Thursday with a Craigslist post about a Hangout VIP ticket up for trade. This isn't any ordinary trade post either. This guy (I am assuming guy) posted that he had a VIP Hangout ticket for trade with a female. All you had to do was "please just send a picture or two along with your reply and let's see if we can work something out!"

Seems legit, right? Who knows if it ended up working out for him, but Boozie's VIP spies couldn't help but wonder if any of the younger girls in VIP maybe took him up on the offer.

The Hangout pre-party was a hit. Boozie's spy said Moon Taxi, performing as People of the Sun and doing a Rage Against the Machine set, was amazing — so much so that people stuck around hoping for more. Sure, the bands ended but the entertain-



Photo | Boozie Spy

FORMER MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSIONER STEPHEN NODINE SENT AN EMAIL LAST WEEK NOTIFYING ITS RECIPIENTS THAT HE WAS MOVING BACK TO FLORIDA. BUT BEFORE HE LEFT, HE APPARENTLY DECIDED TO PERSONALLY SAY GOODBYE TO SOME LOCALS.

ment did not. People in traffic had one guy entertaining them as he struggled to ride his bike home. He would make it a little ways, then wreck. No telling how long it took him to get home!

We can't talk about Hangout without a little VIP action. For starters, stoner comedian Doug Benson of Super High Me fame was cruising around VIP. My spy said he was being super low key as if he didn't want to be recognized. Sorry, but no one is safe from my spies.

After this weekend, VIP might have a new meaning. Between shows, the VIP men's bathroom had quite the line. There were two stalls and when one became available, the next person went in. Well, one guy just couldn't hold it any longer and began peeing on himself while running to the stall, saying "Man, I am so embarrassed, I have never pissed myself before. Can I get in there with you? I can't hold it back!" As pee was running down his leg the other guy decided it was OK and said, "As long as you don't piss on me, I don't care." Gross! Hasn't that guy ever heard of peeing in the pool? Just kidding.

Hangout attire

If you didn't attend Hangout but want to know what stylin' thing 20-year-olds are wearing these days, look no further. Boozie has got you covered on what not to cover.

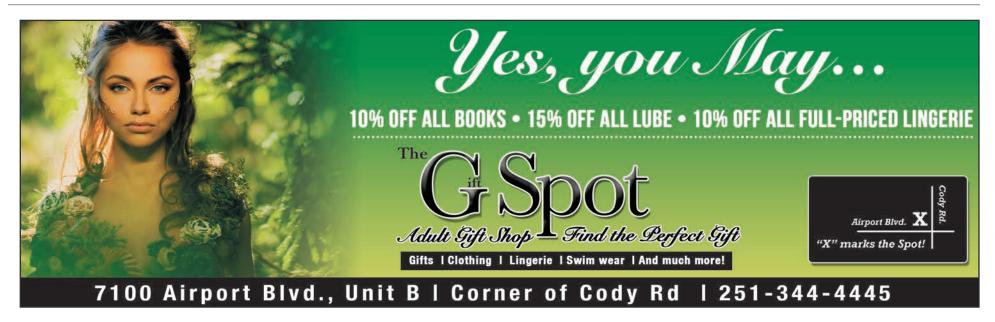
For some reason flower crowns have made their way into the music festival look and it has been this way for several years. It's almost like isn't it time for this fad to die?

Moving on, to fit in at Hangout (for females) you had to be wearing high-waisted, cut-off, cheek-showing, camel-toeing denim shorts. My spies were wondering if Monistat sales would skyrocket this week? For a "top" you have more options. You can wear a swimsuit top with crazy straps, a white top, a crop top or something that is slightly see-through. Bonus points if it's something crocheted.

Now that you've got the clothes part down, let's accessorize! You need to wear at least five bracelets (Hangout bracelet counts), a choker necklace and temporary tattoos that look like jewelry. Oh, we can't forget sparkly body/face paint if you choose to skip the temp tats. To finish off the look, you need mirrored sunglasses. Boozie actually very much enjoys hers because you can stare without people knowing. And if you are feeling super crazy or are just plain dumb, pick up some body glitter. Boozie has absolutely no idea why someone would intentionally rub glitter on their body, but something must be a little loose under that flower crown. Can we say nightmare?

Thanks to Boozie, you are now set for the next music festival or beach party you attend.

Well, kids, that's all I've got this week. Just remember, whether rain or shine, dramatic or scandalous, or just some plain ol' Lenny lovin', I will be there. Ciao!







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