

# LAGNIAPPE WEEKLY

MOBILE AND BALDWIN | Over 80,000 Readers | February 19, 2015 - February 25, 2015



## SECOND CALLING

Public officials aren't expected to put their private lives on hold, but state law requires certain disclosures to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Mobile City Councilman  
C.J. Small, owner of  
Small's Mortuary

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**On the Cover: Small's Mortuary**  
By Gabriel Tynes

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<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2014 Lincoln MKX</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#L09643F</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$32,250</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2013 Ford F-150 XLT</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#A65396</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$27,990</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2012 Lincoln MKZ</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#810921F</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$20,500</p>
<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2014 Ford Taurus SE</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#153978F</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$17,999</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2013 Ford Focus SE</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#342765F</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$14,575</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2012 Ford Focus Titanium</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#282413F</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$16,500</p>
<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2012 Dodge Ram 2500 Diesel</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#191111</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$35,998</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2012 Chevrolet Equinox LS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#230242</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$16,200</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2009 Ford F150 Lariat</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#B48173</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$17,500</p>
<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2013 Nissan NV 200 S</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#697232F</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$15,999</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2010 Ford Sport Trac Limited</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#A33626F</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$26,500</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2014 Ford E350 15 Passenger Van</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#A07622F</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$26,999</p>
<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2008 Jeep Wrangler X</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#621898F</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$19,998</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2004 Toyota Camry LE</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#872583</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$4,975</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: green;">2004 Dodge Ram 2500 Diesel</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">#132152</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$13,500</p>

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**Will go to court if I have to**

Thank you Mr. Tynes (commenter) for pointing out to the author(s) of BayouSnadu.com the error of their ways regarding the libelous statements being made on their anonymous blog (Bayou councilwoman resigns amid ethics complaint, cites ‘propaganda website,’” Jan. 23, 2015). If it takes my last breath, I will see them in civil court to clear my good name!

I have a young man in my class who mentioned this website to me today; he told me that a lot of people believe this information to be true and he really hated this whole situation. Well, let it be known through your publication that if and when the parties responsible are finally revealed to the public, I intend to use the proceeds from the civil suit forthcoming, to fully fund that young man and his brother’s college tuition at the University of Mobile!

Furthermore, if you feel it merits your readers attention: you are hereby given my permission to peruse my PUBLIC Facebook page to acquire my recent response to the above mentioned snag, with one stipulation: print all or nothing, no bits and pieces, please. The same goes for this comment as well!

**Bayou la Batre City Councilwoman Annette Johnson**  
Via [lagniappemobile.com](http://lagniappemobile.com)

**The struggle is real**

To the editor:

OMG regarding “Negotiating Your Way through the Twees” (Hidden Agenda by Ashley Trice, Jan. 22, 2015), did you slip an undercover camera into our home and share our hidden secret with the world? Cold War negotiations pale in comparison to the “deals” that we have struck just to keep “the peace” in our home. Your article was so indicative of our daily ritual with our 3-year-old twins (girl and boy), but primarily our daughter who exhibits the same exact traits that were represented in the piece.

Knowing that we are not alone in our suffering brings us great joy. Thanks so much for the words, they are truly appreciated ...

**Al and Monique Weeden**  
Mobile

**Making complex issues easier to understand**

Great article explaining the legal complexities in an understandable fashion, Jason Johnson (“Hearing could fix Mobile County’s ‘confusion’ of same-sex marriage laws,” Feb. 10, 2015).

**B. Brooke Mann**  
Via [lagniappemobile.com](http://lagniappemobile.com)

POLICE DISPATCH

BY ALYSON STOKES & JASON JOHNSON

**Man accused of murdering daughter enters plea in firearms case**

Hiawatha Robinson, accused of murder and sodomy in connection to the 2014 death of his 8-year-old daughter Hiawayi, pleaded guilty to a federal firearm charge in an agreement filed Friday afternoon.

According to court documents, Robinson was in possession of a 12-gauge, single-barrel shotgun on Oct. 2, the same day search warrants during the homicide investigation were executed at his home on Stovall Street in Prichard and at the home of his girlfriend Taisheira “Tasha” Parker in Semmes. The court records show the firearm was in “plain view” in the front room of Robinson’s home.

Because of Robinson’s previous felony convictions, officials say he was prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition. Robinson was convicted in Mobile County Circuit Court for first-degree possession of marijuana in 2011 and third degree burglary in 2002 in addition to a conviction of second degree receiving stolen property in 2001 in Baldwin County.

Further, Robinson was also convicted of third degree domestic violence and third degree assault in 2004 in Mobile municipal court.

The maximum penalty for the charge is 10 years in prison; however, Robinson could be subject to a mandatory term of imprisonment of 15 years to life in addition to a fine up to \$250,000, a three-year supervised release, which would follow any term of imprisonment, a mandatory special assessment of \$100 and a restitution may be ordered by the court.

The plea agreement says prosecutors will not bring any additional charges against Robinson as it relates to the federal indictment and will recommend Robinson be sentenced at “the low end” of the sentencing guidelines as determined by the court.

Robinson still faces state charges of felony murder and first-degree sodomy in connection with the death of his daughter.

Neither a sentencing date for the federal charges nor a trial date for the state charges has been set at this time.

When Robinson’s defense attorney, Jeff Deen, was questioned about his client following a hearing in an unrelated case, he had no comment for the media.

**Traffic fatality results in arrest**

Officers responded to the scene of accident Sunday night that left a pedestrian deceased and another individual arrested for felony leaving the scene of an accident and driving under the influence.

According to Mobile Police, at around 9 p.m., Feb. 15, a call was received referencing a pedestrian struck by a vehicle at the intersection of Government at Everett streets. Upon arrival, police discovered the 51-year-old male was deceased in the westbound lane on Government Street, apparently from injuries sustained in the accident. Authorities have yet to release the victim’s name pending notification of his family.

The preliminary investigation revealed the victim was crossing the roadway from the south side of Government Street when a truck traveling west struck and killed him. The driver of the vehicle was unimpaired and stopped at the scene to render aid to victim.

However, after the deceased was struck, a second vehicle driven by Tomas Ricardo Lopez of Indiantown Florida, struck both the deceased and the driver of the first car. According to authorities, Lopez fled the scene, but was later located and arrested for felony leaving the scene of an accident and DUI.

Authorities say the initial driver will not face charges for the accident, and said there are no other pending charges in the case.

**Man charged for leaving the scene of an accident**

Mobile Police were able to find and arrest 28-year-old Paul Mark Wiley after he allegedly struck a vehicle on Airport Boulevard Friday, then immediately fled the scene.

Authorities say the victim, who will not be identified, was transported to a local hospital for treatment but didn’t sustain any life-threatening injuries.

Wiley was formerly charged with leaving the scene of an ac-

cident with injuries, and was booked into the Mobile County Metro Jail Feb. 13 before being released.

**Weekend Mardi Gras festivities lead to 52 arrests**

At Saturday’s Mystics of Time parade, Mobile Police estimated an attendance of nearly 114,000 people and 15 complaints meriting a response from authorities.

According to an official recap of the day’s events, officers made seven misdemeanor arrests but issued no felony charges. The arrests included charges for carrying a pistol without a permit, panhandling, four arrests for public intoxication and one minor who was arrested for possession of alcohol.

Seven tickets were issued for crossing barricades, and since firearms are no longer permitted in the parade zones, one handgun was confiscated and its owner arrested.

Joe Cain Day is usually a crowd favorite during the Mardi Gras season, and Sunday’s numbers topped 120,000 in downtown Mobile.

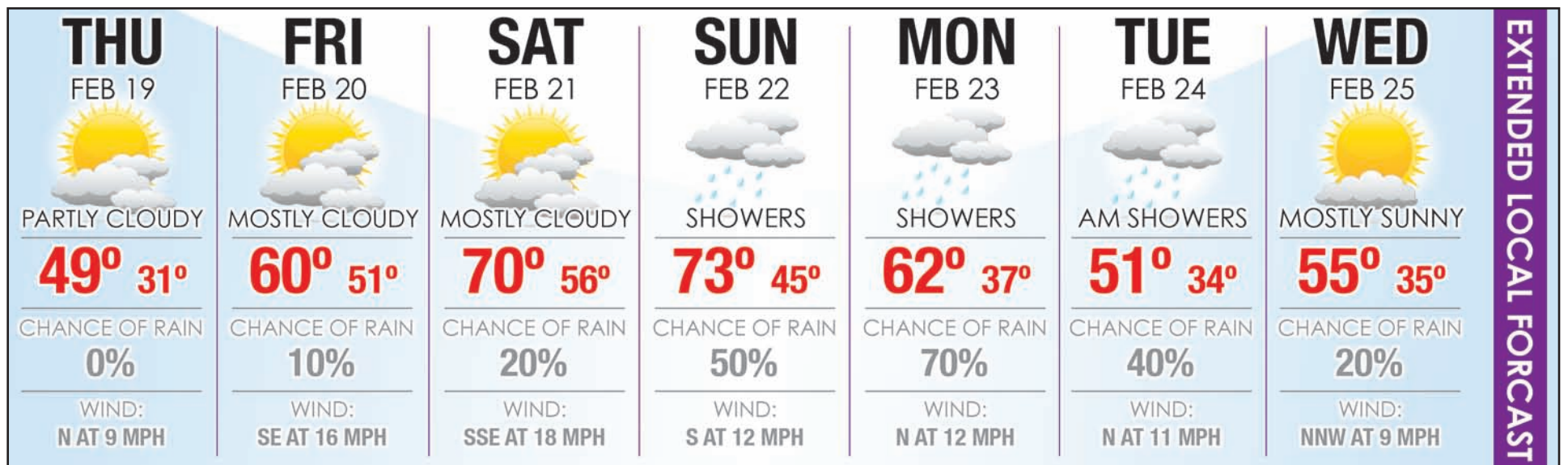
However, police were requested 75 times for incidents during the day, leading to 45 misdemeanor charges and two felony arrests.

According to police, 10 adults were arrested for disorderly conduct, at least one DUI was issued, one subject was arrested for domestic violence, six were arrested for public intoxication, one was charged with furnishing alcohol to minors, 20 underage adults were arrested for being in possession of alcohol, three were arrested for possession of marijuana, two were arrested for possession of a controlled substance and three juveniles were arrested for possession of alcohol.

However, no tickets were issued for crossing barricades on Sunday, though authorities did say they were continuing to have issues with parked vehicles blocking roadways.

On Sunday alone, 33 vehicles were towed and 36 parking citations were issued, according to the MPD.

Authorities say if a fire truck cannot move through the roadway, the vehicles blocking the road will be towed.



# Baldwin school officials tell Tea Party ‘just trust us’ on tax plan

BY ALYSON STOKES/REPORTER | alyson@lagniappemobile.com

The Common Sense Campaign (CSC) Tea Party last week held a public meeting with several Baldwin County Public School officials to express various concerns related to the upcoming tax referendum proposed by the school system to fund a \$350 million capital building plan.

According to school officials, if Baldwin County residents vote in favor of the referendum March 31, an 8-mill increase in ad valorem tax will give the school system \$28.6 million in additional revenue. The system said the funds will be earmarked for building and maintaining facilities to accommodate the rapidly increasing number of students — up 25 percent in 10 years, representing about 6,158 new students.

With \$184,900 being the average home value in Baldwin County, taxpayers can expect to see an average increase of \$148 per year, which breaks down to \$12 per month or 41 cents per day, officials said.

However, Cody Phillips, president of the CSC’s Fairhope and Daphne chapter, opposes the tax increase and presented related concerns to school officials during the public forum. Phillips said the purpose of the meeting was to educate the public, provide an open discussion, highlight the impact of additional taxes on businesses, explore possible alternatives that could offset the proposed additional taxes and ultimately promote openness and transparency.

“We are here for the truth,” he said.

Though Phillips agreed the county needs to provide the best quality education for students, he wondered what additional taxes may be imposed in the future and what services would be cut next to provide for the state’s current \$700 million budget deficit. He also noted the recent increase of driver’s license and car tag fees.

Others were curious about the possibility of a “pay-as-you-go” plan, allocations of “rollover” funds and the effects the tax increase would have on residents with fixed incomes, many of which may not even have students in school and feel like they are being punished.

Chief Financial Officer Josh Wilson said the system could use a “pay-as-you-go” plan if it already had enough money in reserve. While \$140 million is needed to cover immediate needs and “just to get caught up” over the next three years, the board would utilize pay as you go as much as possible, he said.

“I love pay-as-you-go,” he said. “That is part of the long-term plan.”

Furthermore, Wilson said it costs roughly \$20 million per month to operate BCPS, thus a surplus “rollover” or funds from other sources like BP could not adequately fund a capital improvement plan.

Additionally, the school system has seen close to a \$12 million — 22 percent — decline in ad valorem revenue and almost \$1 billion less in state funding since 2008, he said.

As far as tax increases for farmers, the 8-mill ad valorem increase would reflect a .35-cent increase per acre per year for pasture and crop lands and .43-cents per acre per year for timberland, according to Wilson.

Another major concern expressed during the three-hour meeting was a desire for an itemized, detailed estimate of costs to each district’s proposed projects in the 10-year facilities plan.

“No plan has been put forth by the board of

education to account for expenditures beyond the 10-year plan,” Phillips said.

So far, Baldwin County school officials have presented a list of proposed work to include the construction of additions, new schools and even the creation of an entirely new feeder pattern, but they have yet to provided an itemized list of costs.

“We didn’t pull this out of the sky,” Wilson said. “You’ve just got to trust us here.”

BCPS Superintendent Robbie Owen, having grown up in Silverhill, opened up the school system’s presentation by noting every school official present at the forum was a graduate of area high schools.

“We’re all local folks and we understand the concerns,” he said.

Owen went on to say school officials presented the capital plan to every mayor in each of the school system’s respective feeder patterns, maintaining that each mayor was on board with the proposed tax increase.

“In every one of those towns it was ‘yes, we support that,’” he said. “It’s been across the board.”

However, Nancy Grassley, a Baldwin County resident for 10 years, said the time frame is just too long and there is too much uncertainty with approving a property tax increase for that amount of time.

“I don’t understand why it’s so urgent ... it’s OK now, but 30 years is a long time,” she told school officials.

To address Grassley’s concern, Owen said interest rates are at an all-time low, and now is the best time to borrow money.

“I don’t agree with it for 30 years,” she said. “Why not a step at a time? I’m positive that next year our home values will go up. There must be another solution or at least half and half.”


Five items will be on the ballot in March, including the renewal of an existing 1-mill tax and two 3-mill taxes in addition to the proposed 8-mill increase that is divided into separate 3-mill and 5-mill taxes. New and reinstated taxes will be applicable through 2045, at which time voters may decide again on whether to renew them.

Baldwin County currently receives 12 mills of ad valorem property tax for education, which falls significantly below the amount collected by other area systems like Mobile County, which receives 29.5 mills within the cities of Mobile and Prichard and 21.5 mills outside city limits.

Currently, BCPS utilizes 100 portables to accommodate a portion of its little more than 30,000 students. In nine years, if the proposed plan does not pass, the system projects having 36,000 students and a need for 447 portables, which would cost about \$17 million.


“I don’t think anyone in here thinks the growth is going to stop,” Wilson said. “The secret is out. Everyone is coming to Baldwin County whether we like it or not.”

The school system has been working in conjunction with the Baldwin County Education Coalition’s “Build Baldwin Now” campaign to educate county residents by hosting education summits throughout the community. There are three meetings left before the vote — Feb. 23 at Robertsdale High School, Feb. 24 at Daphne’s Trojan Hall and March 5 at the event center at The Wharf in Orange Beach.



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# City spent more than \$100,000 in legal fees on trash lawsuit

BY DALE LIESCH/REPORTER | dale@lagniappemobile.com

The city of Mobile has been billed for more than \$100,000 in legal fees and expenses for defending the Solid Waste Authority in a breach of contract lawsuit filed by Waste Management late in 2013.

Late last month, a federal jury awarded Waste Management more than \$8 million as a result of the lawsuit, although it's unclear how the SWA will pay it.

City Attorney Ricardo Woods said the city is on the hook for the legal fees, but said it would not be responsible for paying the \$8.1 million judgment awarded in U.S. District Court.

"The Solid Waste Authority is a separate, stand-alone entity," Woods said. "I can't tell you who's responsible, but I know who isn't."

He said the city is responsible for "incidental costs" for the authority, although he couldn't remember any recent bills the city had to foot that would fit under that label.

The city is responsible for the tipping fee Waste Management charges for disposal of the city's garbage, Woods said. From March 1, 2012 to Feb. 1, 2013, the city paid out more than \$1.3 million to Waste Management for these tipping fees, according to the city's weekly check register. Woods said while the SWA has a contract with Waste Management, the city has a contract with SWA to pay the fees.

The \$103,620.08 bill the city will pay related to the trial breaks down into \$79,604 for legal fees and \$24,016.04 for expenses. The fees pay for the time the attorneys spent working the case, while the expenses are related to hard costs, like copying and filing documents, Woods said.

The bill is split between three Mobile firms. Former City Attorney Larry Wettermark's firm of Wettermark, Everest, Rutens & Gailard, LLP racked up the most at \$38,435. SWA attorney Jim Rossler's law office saw the second-largest amount at \$26,025 and Burr & Forman, LLP, Woods' law office, took in \$15,144 from the case, according to an accounting of the fees

compiled by the city's legal department. Rossler has also served as the attorney for the Mobile City Council for many years.

Woods said Rossler and Wettermark did most of the work on the case because it was their "baby." He added that the actions that led to the lawsuit occurred when Wettermark was still the city's attorney. Woods' firm monitored the case, he said.

The numbers are broken down further by month, with the first bill for \$1,766.24 in fees from Burr & Forman, dating back to April 2014, nearly six months after Waste Management filed suit.

**“The Solid Waste Authority is a separate, stand-alone entity. I can't tell you who's responsible, but I know who isn't.”**

**—City Attorney Ricardo Woods**

"The case moved really slowly at first," Woods said. "There was a whole lot of wait time for documents."

Woods said there was a lot of time spent preparing for the trial because of the volume of documents needed.

Woods' firm charged legal fees in May and June of 2014, as well as fees and expenses in July. The total charged for those three months tops \$12,000. Burr & Forman charged for work every following month in 2014. Wettermark's firm charged more than \$33,000 combined in September and October.

Rossler's firm got involved and charged a sum of more than \$25,000 in December and January.

Woods said settlement attempts were made before trial. Those attempts came in the form of two mediation meetings, Waste

Management Attorney Jaime Betbeze said. Both attorneys said they were prohibited from speaking about the negotiations.

Waste Management filed suit against the city's Solid Waste Authority in August 2013 after asking the board on several occasions for an increase in the tipping fee charged to the city for dumping of its garbage in the Chastang Landfill, which Waste Management operates.

The \$20-per-ton fee had only been changed once temporarily since it was set in 1993, despite rate increases being allowed in the contract.

The authority maintained that Waste Management hadn't provided the documentation needed to support a rate increase. Further complicating issues between Waste Management and the Solid Waste Authority was the fact the authority failed to meet for three full years during the time Sam Jones was mayor — from 2008 – 2011. Authority officials have said when they did attempt to meet they were unable to get enough members present to have a legal quorum.

One of the biggest issues in the trial was the authority's contract with Dirt, Inc. for disposal of the city's yard waste. Waste Management argued it was also a breach of contract and U.S. District Judge Kristi DuBose agreed.

After five days of testimony, seven jurors sided with Waste Management and awarded the company \$8.1 million. The jury also set an appropriate tipping fee at \$27.38 per ton.

Post-trial motions are expected in the case. For instance, Rossler upheld his motion for a mistrial after the jury reached its verdict. Rossler took issue with the manner in which a Waste Management financial analyst arrived at the amount of money owed to the firm because of the authority's contract with Dirt, Inc. Rossler said he was given pertinent information about it, in the form of a spreadsheet, only about six days before the trial. He argued that wasn't enough time to have the numbers independently verified.



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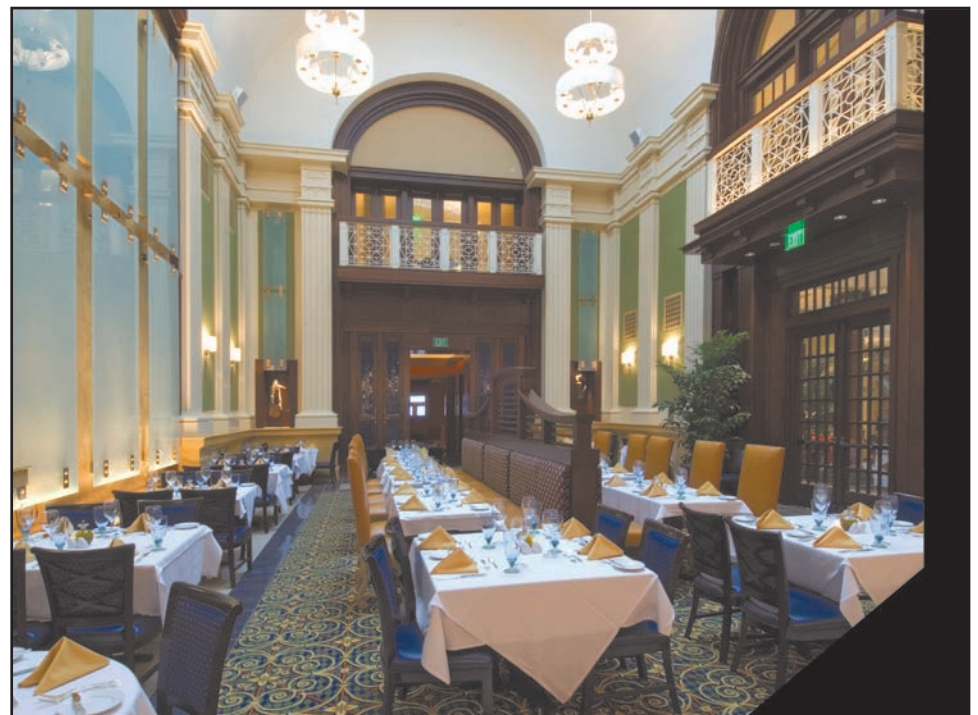
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# Shake-up on Bayou council

BY JASON JOHNSON/REPORTER | jason@lagniappemobile.com

Last week 18-year-old Austin Collier, the nephew of Alabama Secretary of Law Enforcement Spencer Collier, was appointed to the Bayou la Batre City Council, but his connection to local politics might ultimately overshadow both his age and his family tree.

On Feb. 13, Collier was appointed at a regular meeting to replace former councilwoman Jennifer Stork, who resigned last month after her business' involvement with a city-sponsored event came into question.

Collier was one of three potential nominees for Stork's seat on the council, a trio that also included former Bayou councilman Henry Barnes and Roger Milne. Minutes before the vote however, Barnes withdrew his name from contention and went on to throw his support behind Collier.

Though several headlines have focused on Collier's age, the recent high school graduate's connection to the Utilities Board of Bayou la Batre — an entity the city has just concluded a lawsuit against — could be the more important storyline.

Sylvia Raley, Collier's grandmother, is the current president of the utilities board and has been a key figure in the board's ongoing spat with the city government.

That fairly public dispute appears to have started after Mayor Brett Dungan was denied a position as the board's superintendent — one previously held by his predecessor, and which carries a \$24,000 annual salary.

The two entities were locked in a legal battle over term limits of board members, which the City Council has appointing authority over. After the council attempted to place Jeffrey Ladnier on the five-member board last May, the utilities board sued the city over discrepancies in the interpretation of the members' terms.

The lawsuit was settled earlier this month, with a circuit court judge ruling in favor of the city and quickly bringing about the resignations of utilities board members Debra Marchand and Louis Hard, whom Ladnier replaced immediately.

Attempts to reach Dungan about the outcome and cost of litigation were initially unsuccessful.

Since the lawsuit began, the mayor's office has confirmed its role in two reports received by the Alabama Ethics Commission that ultimately resulted in the resignation of two utilities board members, Kimberlyn Barbour and George Ramirez, both of whom inadvertently voted for themselves as City Council representatives to assume the paid position as a board member.

Those resignations paved the way for councilmembers Annette Johnson and Ida Mae Coleman to take positions on the utilities board.

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, at its first meeting with city's three recent appointees, Ladnier, Johnson and Coleman outvoted Raley to hire Dungan as superintendent. As Collier was appointed, Dungan was one of only two who voted against his nomination.

As for Collier himself, he tells Lagniappe he hopes to improve on some of the communication between the two entities, but said he would abstain from voting on any motion brought before the council related to the utilities board his grandmother remains a member of.

"I really won't make any decision or vote on anything to do with the utilities board, but with communication-wise, maybe we can build a bridge," Collier said.

Because of the ongoing dispute, the teenager's

appointment has not been without some contention, as even some fellow members of the council questioned his age and family connections during Thursday's meeting.

"This is a very serious position," said Coleman, the second "no" vote cast against Collier. "We're getting ready to go into a different phase of meetings, and in this phase, Roger Milne has been here. He has a good character, he can make sound decisions and he doesn't have an agenda. I can't speak for Mr. Collier, but I know I can speak for Roger."

Colman, who has made many predictions about the future of Bayou la Batre, said the city's upcoming decisions wouldn't be easy and were "going to divide some families."

Others on social media have also suggested the teenager's connection to his uncle helped land him a position on the council, but Collier has been very quick to brush aside the allegations.

"None of this has anything to do with my family," he said. "[Spencer Collier] didn't know anything about (the appointment) until the next day. This is all about the city and trying to moving forward."

Though Spencer Collier is the top-ranking law enforcement official in the state and formerly a state representative, his nephew said the relationship didn't have much of an impact in his interest in civics or law enforcement.

"I guess he had somewhat of an impact, but growing up I've always lived with Sylvia. I've never been that close to my dad's side of the family," he said.

Collier's father, Harvey Collier III, was one of several members of the extended Collier family indicted in 2013 for fraud charges related to phony collection attempts following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. However, Collier says since he was a toddler, his contact with his father's family has been limited — including with his uncle.

A member of the Mobile County Sheriff's Office's Explorer Program, Collier has volunteered to help at Mardi Gras parades, fairs and other events. He's also recently entered a cadet program with the Mobile Police Department and aspires to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Collier has been involved in local politics for more than a year now, attending each council and utilities board meeting and even taking notes.

He said conversations with his grandmother and others had almost convinced him to run for the position in 2016, but Stork's abrupt resignation presented him with a unique opportunity.

"I was considering running maybe next year, I figured it might be good to go ahead and get involved and start helping to make decisions," he said. "I'm there already anyway."

Collier said for now, he plans to contend for the seat in the 2016 local elections after Stork's current term expires.

Collier was nominated for the position by councilwoman Johnson, who teaches at Alma Bryant High School, from where Collier graduated last May. Though he didn't actually have her as a teacher, Collier said Johnson was very helpful to him his senior year.

"It's important that we encourage our young people to step forward to learn this process of government," Johnson said. "Austin does this at his school as a leader and in his community as a volunteer, and I believe he'll do just honor with this position at this time."



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# Original Oyster House settles suit, other restaurants sued

BY DALE LIESCH/REPORTER | [dale@lagniappemobile.com](mailto:dale@lagniappemobile.com)

The Original Oyster House in Gulf Shores has agreed to pay \$770,490 to 68 current and former employees to settle a lawsuit related to back pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The restaurant will also pay about \$110,000 in total court costs and attorneys fees as a part of the settlement.

The settlement puts an end to a series of claims against the restaurant, but similar cases against other area restaurants have already been filed. All of the suits are being handled by the same Birmingham law firm.

The suit, which was originally filed on behalf of two former servers in January 2014, claimed the servers, who were paid \$2.13 per hour, were owed wages related to a system known as a “tip pool” operated by the restaurant, which forced them to share tips with employees who didn’t directly interact with customers. The suit argued the tip pool was invalid because it included oyster shuckers and kitchen staff, who didn’t interact with customers on a regular basis yet received higher wages.

The suit also alleged 20 percent of the servers’ shift was used for side work, or work where they didn’t interact with customers.

In an eight-page answer to the suit filed last February, the Original Oyster House denied any wrongdoing. But after reaching individual settlements throughout the year, U.S. District Magistrate Judge William E. Cassidy issued a judgment earlier this month settling the case for the 37 remaining plaintiffs.

“This judgment provides a total resolution and complete satisfaction of any and all claims and allegations by the settling plaintiffs against the defendant that are or could have been asserted in this action,” Cassidy wrote. “In addition, the terms of the settlement recognized herein represent a fair and reasonable resolution of this bona fide FLSA dispute.”

Cassidy wrote that the settlement did not constitute an admission of guilt or liability on the part of the defendant.

The 37 plaintiffs named in the judgment received between \$21,045 and \$150 each. The sum was based on each plaintiffs’ tip credit amount and “liquidated damages,” Cassidy wrote.

The Original Oyster House will also have to pay legal fees for the 37 plaintiffs totaling \$68,000 to the firm of plaintiffs’ attorney Daniel Arciniegas. The settlement amounts and legal fees must be paid within 15 business days of the date of the judgment, accord-

ing to the order.

Oyster House attorney R. Scott Hetrick had no comment on the final judgment and directed Lagniappe to call Superb Foods/Oyster House President and CEO Joe Roszkowski directly. Roszkowski did not return a phone call requesting comment, as of Monday afternoon.

Arciniegas declined to comment as well, stating that he didn’t want to comment about the judgment until settlement payments had been received by his clients.

Meanwhile, Arciniegas filed a similar suit Oct. 8 against the owners of the Shrimp Basket, who operate sister restaurants called Mikee’s Seafood and The Steamer in Gulf Shores. The suit names all three restaurants as defendants, based upon plaintiff Jessica Miller’s alleged experiences with an “invalid” tip pool as a server and bartender at Mikee’s.

Miller claims she was forced to contribute a portion of her tips to food expeditors and dishwashers, who do not normally interact with customers and typically receive a higher wage.

“At the end of each shift, defendants total servers’ tips and require servers to pay 2 percent of food sales into a cup to be divided up to non-tipped employees, including dishwashers,” the suit reads. “Servers were also required to contribute \$2 per shift to the food expeditor who plated trays in the kitchen. Defendants including dishwashers (non-tipped employees) in the tip pool invalidates the tip pool and requiring employees to contribute a portion of their tips to food expeditors (non-tipped employees), resulted in the misapplication of the tip credit, as well as the misappropriation of server’s tip-earnings.”

The suit also claims servers were required to perform pre-shift and post-shift work that took up more than 20 percent of their work day, and alleges the plaintiff was not paid for this time.

“During the ‘pre-shift’ time plaintiff and, on information and belief, all similarly situated Servers were required to report to work approximately one hour before defendants opened (sic) its doors and begins serving customers and were prohibited from clocking in,” the suit stated. “During this ‘post-shift’ time they were performing non-serving duties, they were asked to clock out if not waiting on a table and were not compensated for this time.”

The complaint requests a jury trial and asks for damages in the

amount of unpaid compensation and benefits. The suit also demands the defendants pay for related attorneys fees and court costs.

Tammy L. Baker, an attorney representing Mikee’s Seafood, denied any wrongdoing on behalf of the restaurant in response to the complaint. She also listed affirmative defenses to the claims.

In the response, Baker wrote that the defendants “were at all times acting in good faith and had reasonable grounds for believing that their actions were not in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.”

Baker argued upper management and corporate guidelines wouldn’t have allowed the actions complained about to take place. “The relief sought in the complaint is not appropriate because, even if any unlawful practices occurred, which defendants expressly deny, such practices were prohibited by corporate policy and not committed, approved or ratified by upper management,” Baker wrote.

She also argued that any tip pool by the servers was a valid tip pool.

In a statement issued through Baker, Mikee’s ownership denies the suit’s allegations.

“As set forth in our answer to her claims, we categorically deny the allegations asserted by former employee Jessica Miller, who worked for us several different times,” the statement reads. “We value all of our employees and pay them fairly in accordance with the laws. Nevertheless, we have policies against litigating claims through the press. We are confident that we will be vindicated through the legal process.”

A third FLSA suit was also brought last month against Lambert’s Cafe in Foley by former employee Ramona Brown. That suit asks for unpaid wages and overtime, alleging the plaintiff and “other similarly situated servers” would arrive, perform 20 minutes of pre-shift work and then be asked to clock out until customers were seated in their sections.

The suit, also filed by Arciniegas, claims Brown would wait unpaid up to “three hours” for tables to be seated.

No attorney for Lambert’s Cafe was listed in court documents and attempts to reach the restaurant’s corporate office were unsuccessful. Lambert’s has yet to file an answer to the complaint.



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# We can do without reinforcing stereotypes

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

**W**atching television these days you can't help but notice a disturbing trend — men are stupid.

What I'm saying is men, in general, on TV commercials are portrayed as bumbling idiots who can't perform the simplest of tasks without the help of the wife, kids or family pet. In almost any commercial the main male protagonist is some dope who's confused about how his insurance works, needs help ordering fish tacos or can't clean the toilet properly. Most of the time the commercial idiot wants put the toilet cleaner on the outside of the bowl.

This trend is pretty pervasive. It's even bled over into a lot of TV shows.

There's really only one major exception to this rule these days — the guy with erectile dysfunction. In every ED commercial the guy with, ahem, bedroom difficulties is portrayed as the biggest do-it-yourself man's man you've ever seen. He's pulling trucks out of the mud with a team of horses, repairing race cars and sailing through a summer squall. At the end of every commercial he's headed back to his house with his unenthusiastic buddy — presumptively — to pop a little pill, pleasure his lady and then go outside to soak in separate bathtubs and watch the sun set. (I might be conflating two ED commercials there. Forgive me. Ever since Brian Williams' faux pas have come to light I've found it easier and easier to conflate.)

I'm not really sure why the erectile dysfunction guy is treated with such reverence in commercials, while John Q. Regular guy is the butt of a "how many -----s does it take to screw in a light bulb" joke. There are probably some Freudian things there about the Id, the Ego and the dangers of high blood pressure.

I know you're probably thinking, "Yes, he's right. Most of the men in TV commercials ARE made out to be idiots, but why in the world is Holbert writing about that? Is he drunk?"

That would be a reasonable thought process given that I'm writing this column during the apex of Mardi Gras, but there is some loftier point here. I'm sure.

I think the point was supposed to be how annoying it is as a man to constantly see my fellow single-x chromosome home boys portrayed as idiots, even though there are certainly men who live up to that standard — even some with ED. This type of gender discrimination is acceptable because we're men and nobody wants to hear us whine because, well, we did the same thing to everyone else for so long. Oops.

And — OK this is where all of this comes together — it's also how I feel as an Alabamian. We're the country's idiots. Go somewhere else and mention you're from Alabama or Mississippi and you're immediately considered some kind of freak. They're amazed if you display any knowledge of things other than NASCAR and football, although why anyone would waste brain space remembering non-football or NASCAR things is beyond me.

When I lived in Washington, D.C. several years ago, just being a friendly Southerner

I struck up a conversation with a woman with whom we were sharing a cab. She said she was from Minnesota and I mentioned being from The Magnolia State. She immediately hissed "God I hate Mississippi and people from Mississippi! You're all such idiots." I'd quickly mentioned Mississippi had added far more to the literary and musical tapestry of our fine country than had the Land of a Bunch of Lakes. She didn't think so. I told her to give me a list of Minnesota's best and that I'd spot her Prince and Garrison Keillor. She was tongue-tied.

I then rattled off about 20 writers and musicians who'd come from 'Sippi. One small skirmish won for the South in the back of a cab.

But it's hard to constantly fight the common misconception we're all a bunch of drooling morons in this part of the country when some of our people act like such drooling morons on the national stage.

For instance, the actions of Alabama Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore last week did nothing to help give people in other parts of the country an opportunity to say "Hey, you know Alabama's not so back-assward after all." Roy's completely useless edict for Alabama's probate court judges not to marry same-sex couples only allowed all the Bama haters across the country to roll their eyes and giggle about the cavemen running our state.

While I'm not saying we should always worry about what they think in states like New Hampshire or Connecticut, where they like to think they're all superior while they're probably

busy pulling trucks out of the mud with horses or sitting in separate bathtubs, just once in a while it would be nice not to have to apologize for our leadership.

The constant negative stereotypes have their effects. My kids now always seem to think I'm too dumb to work the remote control, even though I taught them how to use it. I blame the commercials and TV shows. Along with the pure number of buttons on the remote that don't seem to have a use.

And I blame Roy Moore for yet another black eye for the state that just helped reinforce the anti-Southern stereotypes for people like my D.C. cab buddy. As everyone with any sense knew would happen, Roy's edict was quickly slapped down by the feds, which should have left him embarrassed. Instead I'm sure he's proud to have had the chance to babble on CNN and have his name printed in every newspaper in America.

I don't know how Alabama is ever going to stop being the national whipping boy with such buffoonery, and I'm sure there are plenty of people in this state who feel like Moore "stood up" for something important and who couldn't care less if he really just looked like a clown and by extension made the state look foolish.

Hopefully when Moore tries to parlay this latest foolishness into another run at the Governor's mansion or some other office, the people of Alabama will think twice about whether we really want someone who acts like he might be better off starring in an insurance commercial.

## The Gadfly



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## Please never leave your bag unattended

BY ASHLEY TRICE/EDITOR | ashleytoland@lagniappemobile.com

Rob and I were in Nashville last July for the Association of Alternative Newsmedia conference, when my own personal terror threat level detector went from green to red. We had spotted what appeared to be secret service agents in and around the hotel where the conference was being held. We soon learned the National Governors Association was also having its conference that week and Vice President Joe Biden was in town to speak.

Maybe I've watched a little too much "24" and "Homeland" or even just the news, but I was already a little on edge, thinking "the terrorists" could be plotting to take out all of the governors and Biden at the same time, right there in Nashville. Was some Jack Bauer or Carrie Mathison-like character already working to thwart the attack? Jack could have been in the basement downstairs dismantling a bomb with only seconds to spare, as we were munching on rubbery conference chicken. And if he didn't cut the right wire in time, we were all going to die — in Tennessee — before the plain cheesecake was served. Just collateral damage.

Cable news would obviously focus on the vice-president and all of the dead governors first, telling their stories over and over. Live shots from all the funerals and such. Once they had finally squeezed every bit of juice out of that story line, they would get around to profiling all of the nobodies like me that died. They would show pictures of me and Frank and the kids that some producer had taken off of my Facebook page. And they would interview one of my friends who would speak of how great I was.

Matt Lauer and/or Savannah Guthrie would nod sympathetically. But it would be someone I hardly knew and hadn't spoken to in 20 years, just trying to get some attention from my tragic freaking death, crocodile tears and mascara streaming down her face.

The thought of it all was unbearable. And a little insane, I know. OK, maybe a lot insane.

I went on with my day as planned, attending a class in the morning before meeting Rob and the rest of the convention folks at a luncheon at noon. It was held in a large open space overlooking the lobby. The outside wall was comprised of large windows and there was a lovely view of the state capitol building right across the street. The subject matter was to be on First Amendment issues and since we were in Music City, the organizers had arranged a couple of local musicians to come in a sing a few tunes that had been subject to some form of censorship, including a version of Randy Newman's "Short People."

The song includes a line saying "short people got no reason to live" and goes on to denigrate the diminutive by saying "They got little baby legs, and they stand so low, you got to pick 'em up just to say hello, they got little cars that go beep, beep, beep they got little voices goin' peep, peep, peep, they got grubby little fingers and dirty little minds, they're gonna get you every time, well, I don't want no short people, don't want no short people, don't want no short people' round here."

It is a silly song and one many have said Newman used to mock racism, showing how equally absurd it would be to judge people by their height as it is judge them by their skin color.

It was about midway through their presentation, when a very non-short man dressed in a black suit strode in, walked up to our table and asked if he could sit with us. We said of course. But before he did, he put a fairly large black leather bag up against the wall. After the duo finished singing their collection of censored songs, he introduced himself as Dieter. Then almost immediately excused himself, without explanation, leaving the bag behind.

I immediately got nervous. Who was this

guy? He didn't look like all the other hippies and hipsters that attend this conference. Not at all. And why did he leave the bag behind?

As time ticked away, it seemed like he was gone way too long for a bathroom break. I pointed the bag out to Rob and mentioned his prolonged absence. Rob told me I was crazy.

My mind raced. This German National (I wasn't even sure what that was but aren't "the terrorists" always "nationals" of some sort) was going to bomb our hotel to create a diversion to get all of the secret service agents and police over here. And then Dieter's partner would set the real bomb off over at the Omni Hotel where Biden was speaking to the governors.

I became consumed with the details of the evil Dieter's plot and could think of nothing else. I mean this had to be it. Why would anyone leave a bag like that unattended? As the association's lawyer droned on about legislation affecting newspapers, I moved my chair over so I could turn my back on the bag. I grabbed my arms and braced myself for the impact.

Rob leaned over and asked, "What are you doing?"

"I'm hoping if it's a dirty bomb, the shrapnel will just get my back and not take off any limbs," I said.

"You have lost your mind," Rob said.

"What other explanation could there be? He's been gone for too long."

I began to literally break out in a sweat and a profound sense of sadness washed over me as knew I would never get to see my sweet kids or husband again.

Noticing how crazily distraught I was (heavy on the crazy), Rob kept reminding me of my lunacy.

Finally, when he couldn't take it anymore, he got up and headed for the bag. Oh no, I knew as soon as he unzipped it, it would certainly explode. This was it!

He began to unzip it and it was like it was in slow motion. I clenched my teeth and waited for it.

When the bang never came, I looked over and Rob was looking down into the bag. He looked back over at me and shook his head and gave me that "you are completely nuts" look again.

He sat back down and said, "It's dirty socks and tennis shoes."

"Oh thank god," I said.

Surprisingly no one else even seemed to notice Rob going through Dieter's bag.

Just before the lawyer finished up, Dieter came strolling back in. I don't know where he could have been for so long. Perhaps the rubber chicken really hadn't agreed with him.

Whatever the case, he was blissfully unaware I had accused him of being a terrorist mass murderer. And that someone had just gone through his stuff.

Last week, I went into the downtown post office, and there were a bunch of unattended bags sitting inside the door. It had a sign on top that read "Property of..."

I couldn't make out the name but I just initially thought it must be a homeless person's. Does the post office let them do that as some sort of courtesy? Well, gosh, that would be a good way for "the terrorists" to blow up a bunch of federal buildings. And oh my god, the FBI building is just across the street!

I started to get that nervous feeling again. As I tried to quickly get out of there and away from the homeless bomber's bags, someone in the back must have dropped something because there was a loud noise. I must have jumped a mile high.

After assessing that I was still alive and the building wasn't burning to the ground, I just shook my head.

My God, I am insane.

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# Bigotry, fear stir same-sex marriage backlash

BY JENNIFER MCDONALD/COLUMNIST | [betterdivorce@aol.com](mailto:betterdivorce@aol.com)

So it's been a pretty dramatic few weeks, eh? For many of us, this past Thursday and Friday were very happy days as we saw the first few marriages between homosexuals in Mobile.

Even in my celebration of what I consider a great victory, I'm still struggling with a great deal of resentment about the way state officials handled the matter. Frankly it's all been a tremendous embarrassment to the state in general, and it's hard not to see much of the fighting as at least somewhat disingenuous.

Not to suggest I don't believe Roy Moore and countless others truly have a moral and religious objection to homosexual marriage, but I don't believe someone with as much judicial experience as Moore truly believes anyone in Alabama — even a unified majority — has a legal right to impose their personal religious beliefs on the private lives of other citizens.

As many before me have already suggested, Moore's agenda very clearly seems like a losing battle given the larger political climate of America today. In that regard it seems like a tremendous waste of time and resources, not to mention yet another contribution to Alabama's already undesirable reputation as a bastion of small-minded bigotry and fear of change. Personal views aside, that seems like a terrible way to attract the bright young minds and innovative businesses we've been working so hard to recruit.

As much as this has been a time of celebration for many, obviously it's been a hard pill to swallow for plenty others. Reading through the online comments on various local forums lately, it's impossible to miss the frequent expressions of disgust and despair, and even a few calls to secede from the union.

As painful and confusing as this may seem now for many who oppose the recent changes, take comfort it will all be OK. The sun will rise and set each day, just like always. And best of all, you still maintain your right to be just as offended and disgusted by that gay couple you passed holding hands on the street today as you were last month, only now that couple can enjoy the right to file taxes together and stand at each others' bedside during times of grave illness.

Essentially, life in Alabama has improved considerably for some and really didn't change much at all for the rest of us, and we'll all be just fine. I realize there are some who will choose to remain offended and disgusted for the rest of their lives, and that is absolutely within their rights. Others will slowly come around as the years pass and homosexual marriage becomes increasingly common, and things won't always seem so tense.

When I was growing up I don't remember homosexuality being something that we really talked about much. I was aware it was a "thing" but really didn't know much about it. To the kids in my class the concept

functioned mostly as an insult. To call a boy a "queer" or a "homo" might mean you suspected he was homosexual, but more often (and more importantly), it meant that you thought he was a major loser.

It wasn't until we started realizing homosexuals weren't some strange and obscure "others" we might pass in a dark alley, but rather real people in our own lives that the majority of folks in my generation slowly began to accept and even truly embrace ideas that seemed pretty strange to our parents. Most of us in the under-40 crowd scarcely raise an eyebrow at homosexuality these days although it certainly wasn't a smooth transition.

I was in the ninth grade the first time I realized I knew a gay person, when a close male friend "came out" to me for the first time. This would happen once more before I graduated high school, and in both cases my friends slowly opened up to others in the following weeks and months.

I would love to say Theodore High School was the equivalent of a big warm hug for a gay kid in the early '90s, but sadly that was not always the case. Both of my friends were bullied mercilessly after revealing their orientation, and one endured the humiliation of a group of boys urinating on him while bombarding him with verbal abuse. It was pretty awful.

Both boys struggled with severe depression and both admitted seriously contemplating suicide at some point. It was enough that they were terrorized at school, but the real rejection was at home, where they were told they were disgusting freaks by the very people who were supposed to love them most.

I don't know what it feels like to be homosexual, so I listened pretty carefully the very first time they told me, "This is who I am and I can no more change it than you could ever change the way you feel about boys."

Enough said.

Suicide is the leading cause of death for gay teens, with up to 30 percent attempting suicide by the age of 15. That should surprise no one who tuned in for the recent debate and saw the hateful sentiments that were shared. I can't imagine anything in the world lonelier than being a secretly gay kid living in one of those homes, and it absolutely breaks my heart.

I realize I can't tell other adults how to feel or what to believe, especially about something so personal, but I can say this to any young person who might be struggling with this issue: Please don't ever let anyone convince you to give up on yourself. This city can feel pretty oppressive at times for people who are "different," but I assure you it's not like that everywhere. Even here in Mobile it won't always be this way, and you won't always feel alone. Just hang in there and I promise you, it gets better.

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# The 'Washington is broken' myth

BY JEFF POOR/COLUMNIST | jeffreypoor@gmail.com

WASHINGTON – Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are fast approaching another all too frequent do-or-die deadline. In two weeks' time, the Department of Homeland Security could shut down if Congress is unable to pass a new appropriations bill. Current funding is set to expire due to the end of last year's so-called CR/omnibus.

Last month House Republicans passed a DHS spending bill that would fund the entire department but block the President's controversial executive actions on immigration. The bill has been stalled in the Senate, however, as Democrats have repeatedly blocked the House-passed legislation from even coming to the floor.

Although the Senate is in stalemate, House Republicans say not to expect another DHS funding bill to come from the House, that the ball is in the Senate's court. The path forward remains murky.

Not to fear, however. These things ultimately are figured out one way or another.

There is a prevailing notion that Washington, D.C. is broken. This episode is just several in a series of how our elected officials aren't working for us, but to live high on the hog while promoting their personal, partisan agendas.

So why even bother engaging? Watching "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" is much more entertaining than any of the news broadcasts.

The dirty little secret is Washington is broken — at least not in the way that it is portrayed. Driving the myth is that Washington is a place where partisanship is the motivation.

Some liberal talking heads would have you believe that Republicans want to take America back to a place where birth control and abortion are illegal, Jim Crow laws are still in place, where greedy robber barons reap the benefits off the backs of the downtrodden and the invasion of an Middle Eastern country is right around the corner.

Conversely, some conservatives would have you believe that the Democratic Party aims to socialize every aspect of American life, enact a way of life in which the philosopher-kings in the federal government dictate everything an individual does from when they awake, what they eat, what they wear, etc. and would ban religion altogether so that the state would fill that void. But that's just part of the game.

If there wasn't fear in the system, then fundraising for reelection would be that much more difficult. Without boogymen like Common Core and the so-called war on women, what's going to motivate some to even show up on Election Day?

All of that is a sideshow, a distraction from what's really going on.

The reality is Washington functions much more efficiently than 90 percent of the public realizes. Certainly there are disagreements and overcoming obstacles is much more difficult with divided government. But when it does function, things get done.

Since the Republicans won the House in 2010 and John Boehner has taken over as Speaker, the federal government has still managed to increase its debt by \$4 trillion. Keep in mind, the bulk of that was with a Democratic-controlled Senate in addition to a Democrat in the White House.

Either that is some expensive gridlock, or



Photo/ johnboehner.house.gov

## Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives John Boehner

it proves the idea that Washington is broken is canard.

There is a divide in the country, but it mostly a cultural phenomenon. The same-sex marriage fight has given Alabamians a front-row to the cultural division in the country.

When they're making sausage in Washington, hardly any of the ingredients touch on aspects of social issues, at least legislatively.

Occasionally, things like mandated birth control or publicly funded abortions will be the prevailing issues in a given news cycle, as they were in Obama's 2010 healthcare reform law. That's just a drop in the bucket of the overall function of our federal government.

Certainly, there are exceptions. Elections can be swayed based on the economy. But if you're looking at the electoral map over the past three decades, the stridently red states are socially conservative and the stridently blue states are socially liberal or less conservative.

Social issues, however, aren't regularly debated in the chambers of Congress.

That isn't going to change our politics. The media are hammering prospective 2016 Republican presidential candidate Gov. Scott Walker (R-Wisconsin) for not committing to an answer on evolution. That's just part of the game.

Whether or not Walker believes in the theory of creation or evolution will likely have no impact on the day-to-day operations of our behemoth federal government. The pencil pusher on the seventh floor of the Department of Commerce will be doing the same thing he was doing during the Bush and Obama years, which is really something many of us have no idea what.

So when you hear "Washington is broken," it's being used as a campaign slogan. The problem is, any of the elected officials on the ballot for federal office, from member of Congress to the office of president, aren't going to fix it on their own. There are institutional flaws, dug-in bureaucracies and lobbies that feed off of the government that prevent any immediate extraordinary change.

Changing that won't be easy. If done electorally, it would have to be done in many elections over several generations. Americans as whole haven't shown they're willing go in that direction electorally, which proves that old saying that in the United States, we get the government we deserve.

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# Manci's Antique Club now part of Callaghan's

BY RON SIVAK/COLUMNIST | ron@elminfo.com | Twitter @rcvak

**R**estaurant business broker Harry Johnson along with Callaghan's Irish Social Club owner John Thompson are teaming up to reopen the historic Manci's Antique Club located in Olde Towne, Daphne.

The 3,700-square-foot building located at 1715 Main St. will undergo a basic remodeling and the kitchen will be updated.

"The goal will be to create an Eastern Shore version of Callaghan's in the iconic Manci's location. While the name, theme, and history will continue to reflect the Manci's tradition, the menu and musical acts will follow the same theme as Callaghan's," Johnson said.

The renovation will take several months and some of the decor will be sold prior to opening as the dining area will be remodeled to better accommodate live entertainment.

Johnson has previously developed and operated several of the Eastern Shore's more popular restaurants, including Winslow's Café, Pelican Pointe Grill and the Bluegill Restaurant. Thompson has hosted many of the area's up and coming musicians, including some that have gone on to national fame such as Alabama Shakes, St Paul and the Broken Bones, Will Kimbrough and the Mulligan Brothers.

**Randy Niemeyer of Ashurst and Niemeyer** represented the Manci family and **Gulf Coast Restaurant Brokers** represented the buyers.

### Commercial real estate moves

Opening in early June, **Corner 251**, formally the Admiral's Corner, will be opening in the **Admiral Semmes Hotel**, 251 Government St. An array of coffee and espresso drinks will also be offered in partnership with **Serda's Coffee Company**. Complementary iPads will be available to patrons for casual reading.

Additionally in June, the first 48 fully renovated rooms at the historic hotel will be open to the public for guest reservations.

**Herrington Realty** recently sold a 1.6 acre and a 1.4 acre lot near the new Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market located at **5301 Overlook Road** for \$1,062,000 to a developer. The investor is proposing to build retail stores and restaurants on the parcels. **Vallas Realty, Inc.** worked for the sellers.

A new **Foosackly's** will be opening in the spring at the former Wendy's restaurant in Daphne at **U.S. Highway 98 and Interstate-10**. The property will be leased from **R and R Holdings**. **Matt Cummings with Cummings and Associates** handled both sides of the

transaction. According to owner **Will Fusaiotti**, plans are in place for an extensive remodel of the property.

**Bead Harbor**, a jewelry store, bead supply, and bead jewelry instruction establishment, has leased 1,320-square-feet at the **Publix Center/Magnolia Place Shopping Center** in Daphne. **Michael Wilson and Sharon Wright** with **White-Spinner Realty** handled the transaction.

### 1702 CEO workshop launches successfully

Last Wednesday, 1702 launched their nascent peer network of chief executive officers and business leaders in Mobile. Bringing a "Silicon Valley entrepreneurial DNA to Mobile" was one of the themes of the evening. Named as encomium to Mobile's historic founding date and its "original entrepreneurs," the event's endgame is aimed at strengthening networks and building long-term successful companies.

Fourteen board of advisor members, considered thought leaders in the community, will offer ongoing mentorship and collaboration in a classroom environment with 24 of the local area's more dynamic companies in the technology, aerospace, consumer and manufacturing sectors.

"1702 is about building an entrepreneurial ecosystem that will help with ideas to be able to launch, scale and build world-changing companies in a business friendly community. My vision is to see a 1702 Alumni Network that will support each other," 1702 co-chairman and serial entrepreneur Dean Parker said.

The class will meet monthly for eight months. Renowned speakers will cover a variety of topics, such as recruiting and retaining top talent, marketing and sales strategies, and building a board of directors.

"1702 is providing a much-needed local networking forum for the community's top entrepreneurs at various stages of their business development. Fostering entrepreneurship is an important part of our community's economic development strategy," Bill Sisson, 1702 board member, president and CEO of the Mobile Chamber said.

In attendance as well was Mayor Stimpson to show city government support for commencement of the high-level small business forum.

The keynote speaker for 1702's kickoff event was Michael O'Neil Jr., founder and CEO

of GetWellNetwork. O'Neil is a renowned, award-winning and passionate entrepreneur who built his company from the ground up.

### Austal USA holds keel laying for USS Omaha

On Wednesday, Feb. 18 Austal and the Navy held a keel-laying ceremony for the future USS Omaha (LCS 12), the fourth Independence-variant LCS class ship built at Austal USA in Mobile under the 10 ship, \$3.5 billion block buy contract awarded to Austal as prime contractor by the Navy in 2010.

The ship's sponsor, Ms. Susan Buffett, an Omaha, Nebraska native, American philanthropist and daughter of Warren Buffett, was unable to attend the event so Capt. Tom Anderson, LCS program manager, was present to authenticate the keel.

According to the press release, a traditional keel-laying ceremony marks the first significant milestone in the construction of the ship. Due to Austal's modular approach to vessel manufacturing, all 37 modules used to form this 127 meter (419 foot) aluminum trimaran are already being fabricated. For Austal, keel-laying marks the start of the final assembly process.

Thirty-four modules have already been moved from Austal's Module Manufacturing Facility (MMF) and erected in the final assembly bay in their pre-launch position. The remaining three modules will follow over the coming months.

### South Baldwin Chamber Business of the Month

91-year-old Saint Benedict Catholic School in Elberta has been announced as the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month for February.

Classes use iPads and Samsung Chromebooks along with flexible small group strategies to meet the needs of children. Students also implement internet based technology programs, allowing the experience of using Google Docs for learning. Textbooks are accessed through computers in the classrooms.

According to the news release, teachers complete ongoing professional development programs that far exceed state standards. All middle school teachers are pre-AP trained through the College Board and Rice University, and a counselor and resource teacher are also available for targeted skills to ensure timely and comprehensive student support and enrichment.



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Light of the Village is a 501(c)3 non-profit operating six days a week inside the Alabama Village in Prichard. We offer GED classes, after school tutoring, Bible studies for all ages, and Summer Bible Camps, all free of charge. For more info about Light of the Village, visit [www.lightofthevillage.org](http://www.lightofthevillage.org).

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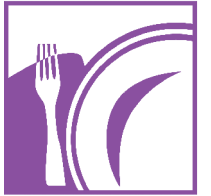


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# There's something fishy going on

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



▲ Photo/ www.foodnetwork.com(left), www.foodspotting.com(right)

**Giving up meat for Lent doesn't mean you have to sacrifice these tasty seafood options.**

I remember my first Lenten season in California. It was 2001 and I was working a job at a video editing facility. "You're from the South? I hear you guys eat a lot of crazy things down there." I would hold their attention with the horrors of sucking the heads of countless crawfish, how a softshell crab is great fried but boiled is a different experience, why snapper throats aren't such a big deal, and that if I order a lobster and all I get is the tail it is most definitely getting sent back.

I was a great distraction from work, and introduced them to boiled peanuts. I had my mother-in-law bring me a bag of raw from the co-op in Elberta on her maiden (and final) voyage to our Orange County chalet, and I did them up right. There were a few partakers who despised the slimy texture of the Southern delicacy, adding to the myth that Andy sure does eat some weird things. To the rest of the bunch it was like I was their drug dealer.

Soon enough I was bringing little Ziploc baggies of boiled peanuts that were divvied out at the beginning of my shift. There were a couple of guys who couldn't get enough. If I showed up empty handed a barrage of questions was surely coming my way. When can you get some more? Does anyone else here have some you know about? Think they will share? I enjoyed the attention somewhat, but it got a little out of hand.

One guy in particular would talk food to me from the time I walked in until his overlapping shift was over. He failed to shock me with the ingredients of menudo or how chorizo has crazy pig parts ground up in the casing. He was trying to get a rise out of me, and I finally asked, "Have you ever heard of chitterlings? No? Well, do I ever have a story for you!"

This guy was of coastal Mexican descent and was dying to shock me with food tales from his homeland. It was obvious that unless he comes up with a recipe and photographic evidence of chupacabra fricassee I would remain unimpressed. So Lent

comes around. He's planning on shocking me. "You know in Mexico they are all Catholic. During lent they don't eat meat. The people down in Rosalita get so sick of eating fish that you won't believe what they eat when they get a craving for meat. Turtles. They really eat turtles, Andy." I said, "Well, I had a bowl of turtle soup on my way to the New Orleans airport when I was coming out here."

He'd been trumped again in front of all his coworkers and innocent bystanders by that slow-talking fool of a white boy from Laurel, Miss., as everyone was hooting and hollering in disbelief of the lengths Southerners would go to for a meal. It was then I realized I wasn't sure if I was their exotic friend from a faraway culture or just their dancing monkey goaded into entertaining them for a baggie of Cajun spiced legumes. I reflect on that every Lent.

For those of you who observe, sacrifice, abstain from valuable proteins during this 40-day period let's look at some of my favorite fish.

**Catfish:** Enough with tilapia. I am sick of it. Catfish is kind of the low man on the totem pole, and shamefully we are fresh out of catfish houses around here. In Mississippi you can't sling a possum without hitting one. The hour-and-a-half drive to Charlie's Catfish in Ellisville, MS, is worth it if you've never been. Or head up 45 to Jordan's (open only weekends) for a great experience. I only want catfish whole, but the strips at Champy's in Daphne are still amazing.

**Flounder:** This odd fish is one of my favorites from the bay. The best way to enjoy flounder is stuffed with crabmeat or one step further with crabmeat au gratin. Mary Mahoney's in Biloxi is the best I've ever had.

Pontchartrain sauce is another topping popular with flounder. Of course there are many variations but it must have white wine, mushrooms, trinity, lemon and crabmeat. Often times shrimp are added to the mixture. But you could put this sauce over just about anything and make me happy. It's best with grilled or blackened seafood.

**King Mackerel:** Some will not be a fan of this choice. I like it because if you do it right on a grill or smoker you can almost make it taste like a steak. Some find it unpleasant or fishy, but that problem can be solved with an overnight soak in cold water or milk followed by a marinade. I love Montreal seasoning on this one and am not afraid of Worcestershire sauce in the marinade.

**Triggerfish:** You don't see this one in restaurants often, and I will certainly miss the version from the Italian Fisherman. But if you are lucky enough to come across some trigger you can easily garner praise from your family and guests by cooking filets covered with tin foil in an oven or on a grill. All you need is a little butter, a squirt of a lemon wedge, maybe some garlic. It's one of my favorites.

**Grouper:** We see a lot of this fish in Mobile restaurants. When it comes to surf and turf this fish makes me not miss the turf. Grouper has some versatility, but I never cook it. My favorite is fried at Queen G's on Old Shell Road. Of course you should ask for the world's greatest fried oysters while you're there. Don't worry about saving room for ice cream.

I could keep this up all day. Snapper, cobia, tuna, salmon, I have a place for them all. Quit your complaining about meat. There are too many fish in the sea!

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# LoDa Biergarten introduces exotic new burgers

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

If you operate a downtown eatery you just about have to serve a good burger. There are plenty to choose from in our fair city, but LoDa Biergarten has some of the best. Their impressive list of designer burgers just got better with the introduction of three new profiles that border on the exotic.

A half-pound burger with certified organic grass fed beef from White Oak Pastures is perhaps the least adventurous of the three, but should not be ignored. This beauty comes topped with goat cheese, fried shallots, and fig/ginger preserves.

If you have never tried bison, Loda will be happy for your first experience to be within their walls. A half-pound of Colorado bison is topped with apple butter, their wonderful slab bacon, and not one but two types of mushrooms: shiitake and Portobello. The beer-battered shallots and smoked Gouda cheese will leave you in awe.

Of all the red meat choices for burgers my favorite is wapiti. That's elk for those of you who don't hunt north of here. The elk in this burger comes from farm-raised creatures and the patty is topped with pickled root vegetables, Creole dijonnaise and provolone.

That's pretty high cotton whoever you are. Here is the catch. These high-end burgers are only offered Thursday through Sunday and fetch an over \$15 price tag, but burger lovers can't ignore what all is going on here. Jump on the burger train and let LoDa Biergarten fill you up. I am yet to try the monster burger they call The Defibrillator. Let the name calling begin. If you take that one down you are more of a man than I'll ever be.

## Benjamin's announces end of days on social media

"It is with the heaviest of hearts ..." began the Facebook post. Fans of Benjamin's will be disappointed that a date has been set for the final meal March 2. The burger personalities, or "burgas" as they prefer to be called, are alongside eclectic items like meatloaf cupcakes and other odd but tasty options. The post went on to say "This is not an end but more of a hiatus," leading one to believe a change of scenery may be on the horizon. Until then,

fans are urged to chase down the "Burga Caboose" food truck associated with this restaurant.

Time is running out to see what these guys are about, but check them out on social media to make sure they are open as hours have become a little erratic. That's also the best way to find the location of the caboose.

## Joe's Soul Kitchen latest meals on wheels

The city is inundated with food trucks this time of year, but now Mardi Gras is over we are back to our "locals only" mobile diners. Joining the ranks is Joe's Soul Kitchen.

You may have seen him about town over the past few weeks, but the normal spot for this traveling eatery is at the corner of Old Shell and Florida across from Butch Cassidy's and Old Dutch in the former gas station parking lot.

Red beans and rice, jambalaya, wings, burgers, pulled pork, and mac and cheese are mainstays, but there are daily specials that let you know what soul food really is. Pork chop Mondays, fried chicken with gravy Tuesdays, Hump Day meatloaf, wings and limas with dirty rice on Thursdays and Fridays with barbecue ribs. It's a lunch-only spot and closed on the weekends, but you usually see them open after school hours. For delivery over \$30, Joe will bring the food to you. Give him a call at 251-401-7809.

## Fish sandwiches appearing again

The commercials are airing again. It's a battle during Lent to see who has the greatest fish sandwich of all the fast food restaurants on the scene. Of course the main category is simply which is the best meal, but there are other things to consider.

Calories could be a factor, which makes me wonder why there aren't any grilled fish sandwiches. Cost is another. You may spend a few bucks for a highfalutin Arby's or Wendy's masterpiece, but someone may prefer the lesser expense for a square fish Checker's sandwich. Whatever your preference, we should have a winner in each category.

I'm surprised every fast food chain isn't required to have fish



Photo/ Tumblr.com

## LoDa Biergarten now offers three new burgers that feature organic beef, bison and elk.

tacos by now. That craze is still going on. Until that day, let's focus on fish sandwiches from fast food eateries. What are your favorites? The list to choose from grows every year. I am always looking for a new one. Shoot me an email.

## Foley's BBQ and Blues Cook-off needs teams

Heritage Park in Foley is scheduled to come alive on March 21 with their annual BBQ and Blues Cook-off. Teams interested could take home the prizes in Best Q, Best sauce, and Anything Butt, all while listening to blues music from our area. Individuals and companies are welcomed to enter and the gated/ticketed event raises funds for the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on this event call 251-943-5550 or send an email to [info@sbchamberfoundation.org](mailto:info@sbchamberfoundation.org)

Spring is around the corner. Get ready for tomato season and recycle!



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# Disclosures list business interests, personal info of public officials

BY LAGNIAPPE STAFF

Ever since he was a boy, laying to rest deceased He-Man action figures in pencil boxes, Mobile City Councilman C.J. Small wanted to be a funeral director. He even once wrote a school report about funeral services.

"I looked at funeral services as a ministry," he said. "Getting to help people bear the loads through the worse part of their lives is a blessing."

His foray into politics and a seat on the Mobile City Council came later, although, he said, he intended to pursue public office at some point in his career.

Last month, Small went before the Mobile Planning Commission for approval of an expansion to Small's Mortuary that would allow for the addition of a repast center on the property. While his application was approved, some planning commission decisions can be appealed to the City Council. If Small's Mortuary were ever subject to such an action, Small said he would recuse himself from any discussion or vote.

But in other votes involving funeral homes, Small said he could be impartial because he doesn't see those businesses as competition.

"I don't have competitors," he said. "I have colleagues."

Small also owns a real estate venture called Small's Enter-

prises and noted Small's Mortuary has branches in Theodore and Fairhope. He said there are plans to open a second location in Baldwin County.

As a public official, Small's business assets are disclosed annually to the state's Ethics Commission on a Statement of Economic Interest. A provision of the state's ethics law, the statements are required of any elected or appointed official, candidate for office and some public employees.

In addition to information about private employment and household income, the statements also disclose the names of immediate family members and information regarding personal indebtedness. The statements do not include their salaries as elected officials.

The statements, or lack thereof, are cited occasionally in newsworthy events. In an ongoing public corruption case against Mobile County License Commissioner Kim Hastie, federal prosecutors claim the defendant and her husband filed two false statements to the ethics commission in 2009 and 2010, deliberately concealing \$38,400 in income from a land transaction.

Bayou la Batre City Councilwoman Ida Mae Coleman was disqualified from the city's mayoral contest in 2013 for failure to file her SOEI as a candidate or as a councilperson. Last year,

a national accrediting organization cited Alabama State University's Board of Trustees for multiple conflicts of interest. Among other complaints was that several trustees did not fully disclose their personal interests in on their SOEIs.

Upon submission, the statements become a matter of public record. Publicly searchable on the ethics commission's website, the individual statements are intended to serve as a disclosure to avoid conflicts of interest and prevent officials from personally gaining from their public position.


Corroborating information and further detail may be available on publicly searchable databases at the Alabama Secretary of State's website and at county probate offices.

In an effort to consolidate the information and present it in a single location, Lagniappe has collected the statements of economic interest for all office holders in Mobile and Baldwin counties. Partially printed below, a full spreadsheet, which will be updated as new statements are filed, accompanies this headline on [lagniappemobile.com](http://lagniappemobile.com).

*Dale Liesch, Jason Johnson, Alyson Stokes and Gabriel Tynes contributed to this report.*

## State Legislature

Name	Elected position	Private employer	Industry	Secondary income
Bracy, Napoleon	House District 98	Austal USA (> \$10,000)	Shipbuilding / Naval contractor	
Buskey, James	House District 99	N/A	N/A	Rent/Lease Income (< \$40,000) • Interest and Dividends (> \$11,000)
Clarke, Adline	House District 97	Mobile Development Enterprises (\$50,000 - \$150,000)	Housing	Black Classics Books and Gifts (< \$10,000)
Davis, Randy	House District 96	University of Mobile, Daphne United Methodist Church (> \$10,000)	music education	Rent/Lease Income (< \$10,000)
Drummond, Barbara	House District 103	N/A		MAWSS - Board Commissioner (< \$15,000)
Faust, Joe	House District 94	N/A		
Gaston, Victor	House District 100	N/A		Land Visions, Driscock Farms, dividends: (\$13,000 - \$80,000)
McMillan, Steve	House District 95	McMillan and Associates (> \$10,000)	Real Estate	McMillan and McMillan, McMillan Bros., U-Stor-It (> \$13,000) • Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitor's Bureau (spouse)
Pringle, Chris	House District 101	Chris Pringle Inc. / Southern Timberlands (> \$10,000)	Construction / Timber	
Sessions, David	House District 105	Sessions Farm (> \$10,000)	Agriculture	Driskell Cotton Farm (spouse), D&S Agency, Inc., Producers Gin Co. LLC (>\$50,000)
Wilcox, Margie	House District 104	Mobile Bay Transportation Company (> \$10,000)	Transportation	Pensacola Bay Transportation Company, Margie Land, LLC, Rental property (> \$150,000)
Williams, Jack	House District 102	Twin Oaks Nursery, Inc., (> \$10,000)	Agriculture	Lucedale Livestock Producers, Tom Dodd Nurseries, SSA, rental income (< \$50,000)
Albritton, Greg	Senate District 22	Attorney, self-employed	Legal	Rental income (< \$50,000) • Jeff Davis Community College (spouse)
Figures, Vivian	Senate District 33	N/A		JSA Enterprises, Inc. (< \$10,000)
Glover, Rusty	Senate District 34	MCPSS (> \$10,000)	Education	Challenge Engineering and Testing, Inc. (spouse)



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SAME DAY & SATURDAY APPOINTMENTS

Hightower, Bill	Senate District 35	Tower Strategies, Inc., Little Monkey Toes, Wee Exchange, Point Clear LLP, Tower Realty (> \$61,000)	Consulting, Retail, Real Estate	
Pittman, Trip	Senate District 32	Pittman Tractor Company, Inc. (> \$10,000)	Machinery / Contracting	Earth Shore Materials, Atlas Inc., Renaissance Center, LLC (> \$30,000) • Rental/Lease Income (> \$20,000)
<b>City of Mobile</b>				
Daves, Joel	Council	Regions Bank (> \$10,000)	Banking	Rental income (< \$10,000) • Pension, dividends, interest (< \$70,000)
Gregory, Gina	Council	MDI Media Group (> \$10,000)	Media	USA Physicians Group (spouse)
Manzie, Levon	Council/School Board	St. Joseph Baptist Church (< \$10,000)	Faith	N/A
Rich, Bess	Council	N/A		
Richardson, Fred	Council	N/A		Retirement, SSA (< \$70,000)
Small, C.J.	Council	Small's Mortuary (> \$10,000)	Service	Small's Enterprises (< \$50,000)
Stimpson, Sandy	Mayor	Scotch and Gulf Lumber, LLC (< \$1,000)	Lumber	Gulf Lumber Co. Inc. (> \$250,000) • Sibley Creek, LLC (< \$50,000) • Pruet Production Co. (> \$50,000) • MBFS Corporation (> \$250,000) • Jean M. Stimpson 2009 Irr Slatrust (> \$250,000) • Various investment, profits, royalties, interest and dividends (> \$50,000)
Williams, John	Council	Mobile Premier Pediatric Dentistry (> \$10,000)		Ameriprise Financial Investments (> \$50,000) • Interest, royalties, dividends (> \$13,000)
<b>Mobile County</b>				
Carl, Jerry	Commissioner	Bradberry and Associates, Family Respiratory, ECM Home Health Services (> \$150,000)	Healthcare	Carl & Associates, Cricket & Butterfly, River Oaks, LLC, Advance LLC (< \$4,000) • Rent or lease income (> \$50,000)
Cochran, Sam	Sheriff	N/A		Rent or lease income (> \$10,000)
Davis, Don	Probate Judge	N/A		Franklin Primary Health Center (spouse)
Hastie, Kim	License Commissioner	N/A		Cooper Marine and Timberlands (spouse)
Hudson, Connie	Commissioner	N/A		BASF (spouse) • Dividends and interest (> \$3,000)
Ludgood, Merceria	Commissioner	N/A		Federal Defender Organization Inc. (spouse) • Spring Hill College (> \$1,000)
Rich, Ashley	District Attorney	N/A		Thompson Engineering (spouse)
Wood, Maryiln	Revenue Commission	N/A		Auburn University Center for Governmental Services (< \$10,000)
<b>Mobile County School Board</b>				
Battles, Robert	Commissioner	N/A		N/A
Crenshaw, Reginald	Commissioner	Bishop State Community College (> \$10,000)	Education	N/A
Foster, William	Commissioner	N/A		N/A
Harwell, Douglas Jr.	Commission President	Harwell & Company (> \$10,000)	Contractor	Dr. Mullinex (spouse)
Peek, Martha	Superintendent	N/A		TEP, Inc. (spouse)
Stringfellow, Don	Commission Vice-President	N/A		N/A
<b>Baldwin County</b>				
Burt, Frank	Commissioner	N/A		Interest, dividends (> \$20,000)
Dorsey, Tucker	Commissioner	Magnolia River Management (> \$10,000)	Property development	N/A
Elliot, Chris	Commissioner	The Elliott Companies, Inc. Elliott Builders, Inc. Elliott Development LLC Elliott, Haygood & Stacey (> \$10,000)	Real estate and development	Salaries (> \$60,000) • Profits, dividends (> \$10,000) • Rental or lease income (< \$10,000) • Baldwin County Sheriff's Office (spouse)
Gruber, Charles	Commissioner	N/A		N/A

Additional information for officials in Baldwin County, Spanish Fort, Daphne, Fairhope, Saraland, Prichard, Dauphin Island, Bayou la Batre and county courts accompanies this article on [lagniappemobile.com](http://lagniappemobile.com).



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# MSO's Grammy-nominated guests bring back Baroque

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

In the South, origins serve as magnetic north. Family and history aren't just components of living, those roots are life itself.

The same applies in music. You can wander far afield, but every now and then you just have to return to the roots to recalibrate your appreciation.

In the classical music realm, that base begins in the Baroque. It's the foundation of all that became in the Western canon.

To that end, Mobile Symphony Orchestra (MSO) has chosen the first weekend of Lent to take things "Back to Bach." The concert named for the seminal composer promises to exhibit the genius that gave birth to centuries of excellence.

Though European music certainly existed through the medieval and Renaissance periods, it wasn't until the early 1600s composers began to implement tonal counterpoints that added complexity to melody and harmony. Combined with the continuous bass lines giving heft to the compositions, the music flowered in a way unseen.

The canzona, a forerunner to the sonata emerged. Themes and variations put further ripples in the musical pond.

Along with a new reliance on keyboard instruments like the harpsichord and pipe organ, vocalists emerged in style far apart from the folk-derived melodies that held sway throughout earlier periods. Of course, the result was the emergence of the opera.

The Baroque pieces highlighted in MSO's program are Handel's Occasional Oratorio: overture, Vivaldi's Motet: "In furore iustissimae," and the titular giant's Orchestral Suite No. 2. Other periods – the Classical and post-Romantic, specifically will be touched upon but the appearance of a guest steals the limelight as Grammy-nominated conductor Patrick Quigley takes a turn at the podium.

MSO Music Director Scott Speck is understandably excited about the guest on baton. Quigley's national reputation for Baroque excellence precedes him.

"He created a choir and orchestra in Florida called Seraphic Fire and together they have produced gorgeous albums and won numerous awards," Speck said in a press release. "Patrick will transform the Mobile Symphony into a Baroque ensemble, playing



Photo/ www.patrickduprequeigley.com

## Conductor Patrick Quigley and soprano Kathryn Mueller will highlight MSO's "Back to Bach."

music from and inspired by that incredible time."

A New Orleans native, Quigley studied at the Yale School of Music and the University of Notre Dame, earning sizable accolades well before his 40th birthday. The aforementioned Grammy nominations were for the 2012 honors, one in "Best Choral Performance" and the other for "Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance." He was world's only conductor with such a distinction that year.

MSO will join the New World Symphony, the San Antonio Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony's Community of Music Makers, the Desoff choirs, the Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati, Santa Fe Desert Chorale and Vocal Arts Seattle in featuring Quigley as guest conductor.

Along with the baton waver, guest vocalist Kathryn Mueller

will appear. The soprano will perform Mozart's Exsultate Jubilate.

A featured performer with symphonies and operas across the nation, Mueller has earned a reputation for Baroque mastery herself. In 2011, she was one of four fellows in the prestigious Adams Vocal Master Class at the Carmel Bach Festival and in her soprano duo Les Sirènes was one of six finalist groups in Early Music America's 2012 Baroque Performance Competition.

Mueller recorded a pair of Grammy-nominated albums with Seraphic Fire. She was also a featured soloist on Seraphic Fire's best-selling Monteverdi Vespers of 1610, which reached the top of iTunes' classical chart.

"Back to Bach" is sponsored by Andra Bohnet in memory of her mother, Erma Cook. The playbill also includes Mozart's Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro" and Respighi's "Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite 2."

If MSO's rousing January Aaron Copland concert is any indication, this next show will be stirring and unforgettable. I don't know if it was the magic of the Saenger's new acoustic shell — which enhanced the visual experience as much as the audible one — or the sheer power, tenderness and expansive tones of Copland's compositions, but the evening rendition brought the sizable crowd to its feet mid-show.

The entirety of "Appalachian Spring" ran a gamut of emotional cues that made Artifice long for the dance Martha Graham choreographed to accompany Copland's composition. But, hey, that's why the Good Lord made YouTube, eh?

The Saturday, Feb. 21 performance of "Back to Bach" begins at 8 p.m. The Sunday, Feb. 22 matinee, at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets range from \$20 to \$65. Students K through 12 may attend the Sunday matinee for free when accompanied by one paying adult, thanks to the Big Red Ticket program underwritten by the Alabama Power Foundation. College students can purchase tickets for \$10 with valid college identification.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the MSO box office at 251-432-2010, in person at 257 Dauphin Street or online at [www.mobilesymphony.org](http://www.mobilesymphony.org).

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**BOEM Announces Public Meetings for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales 241 and 247 in the Central Planning Area and Proposed Lease Sale 226 in the Eastern Planning Area of the Gulf of Mexico**

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will hold public meetings in Louisiana, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. These meetings will provide BOEM an opportunity to solicit comments from Federal, State, and Tribal governments and from interested citizens and organizations. Comments will be used to prepare the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas Lease Sales 241 and 247 in the Central Planning Area and proposed Lease Sale 226 in the Eastern Planning Area (EPA) off the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The proposed CPA and EPA lease sales are a part of the current 2012-2017 Five-Year Program.

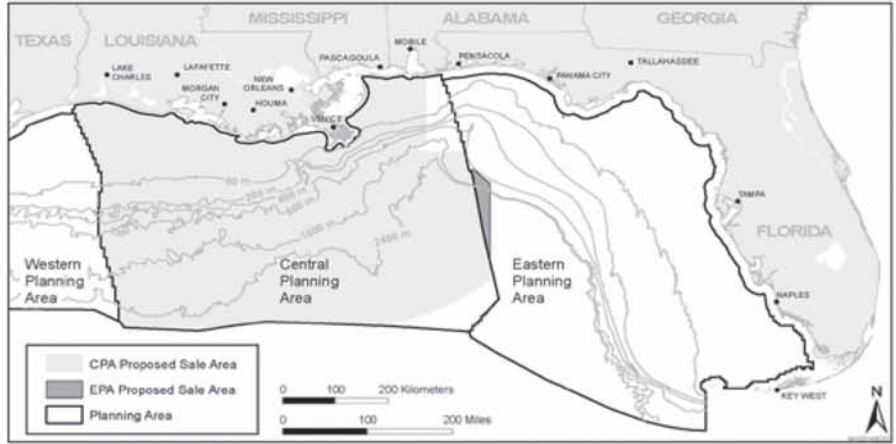
The public meetings are scheduled as follows:

**New Orleans, Louisiana:** Monday, February 23, 2015, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123, one meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST;

**Panama City, Florida:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015, Wyndham Bay Point Resort, 4114 Jan Cooley Drive, Panama City Beach, Florida, 32408, one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST;

**Mobile, Alabama:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015, Hilton Garden Inn Mobile West, 828 West I-65 Service Road South, Mobile, Alabama 36609, one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST; and

**Gulfport, Mississippi:** Thursday, February 26, 2015, Courtyard by Marriott, Gulfport Beachfront, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501, one meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m. CST.



If you cannot attend the public meetings for the Draft Supplemental EIS for proposed CPA Lease Sales 241 and 247 and proposed EPA Lease Sale 226, you may submit written comments within 45 days following the publication date of the Notice of Availability of the CPA 241 and 247 and, EPA 226 Draft Supplemental EIS in the *Federal Register* in one of the following ways:

1. In an envelope labeled "Comments on the Draft CPA 241/EPA 226 Supplemental EIS" and mailed (or hand delivered) to Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Environmental Assessment Section, Office of Environment (GM 623E), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394;
2. Through the [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) web portal: Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for "Oil and Gas Lease Sales: Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf; Central Planning Area Lease Sales 241 and 247 and, Eastern Planning Area Lease Sale 226". (Note: It is important to include the quotation marks in your search terms.) Click on the "Comment Now!" button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click "Submit"; or
3. BOEM email address: [cpa241-epa226@boem.gov](mailto:cpa241-epa226@boem.gov).

If you have questions, please call Mr. Gary D. Goeke at 504-736-3233.



# Literary Trail arrives late February

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

The Southern Literary Trail makes its biennial appearance and the first event begins in the wake of Mardi Gras. It's but one of seven programs scheduled for Mobile.

On Sunday, Feb. 22, at 3 p.m. the Trail presents "John Davis Plays Blind Tom: Music as Storytelling" in the recital hall of the University of South Alabama's Laidlaw Performing Arts Center.

Born into slavery, blind and autistic, it's a wonder Thomas Wiggins survived at all. That his name and accomplishments have continued into the 21st century is astounding.

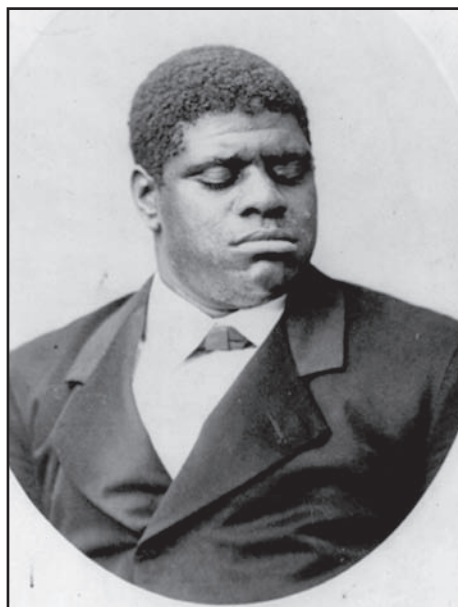
When Wiggins exhibited a bent for the piano at the tender age of four, the daughters of Georgia's Bethune family that owned Wiggins and his parents encouraged his pursuits. His skill for mimicry and natural abilities led to his first composition at age five.

Luckily, the patriarch of the family recognized young Wiggins' gifts, moved him into an adjoining room off the main house and cultivated his pursuits. A neighbor told the Atlanta Constitution in 1908 Wiggins played 12 of the day's 24 hours.

At age eight, he was "hired out" to a concert promoter. On tour, the child was made to perform up to four times a day. The savant reportedly earned the concert promoter and his owner up to \$100,000 a year, close to \$2 million adjusted for inflation.

In concordance with the times, the marketing for Blind Tom took the angle of a freak show, part beast and part artist. He was often compared to a bear, baboon or mastiff.

It was common for professional stage musicians to perform numbers only to have the audience watch mesmerized while Wiggins



Photo/ En.wikipedia.org

## Pianist "Blind Tom" Wiggins.

reproduced the numbers spontaneously. He was claimed to have eventually learned some 7,000 musical numbers.

In 1866, Wiggins former owner-turned-manager toured him through Europe. In 1875, management was passed to a Bethune son and they toured the U.S.

Through the remainder of the century, Wiggins passed between guardians, courted calamity — he was in Pennsylvania during 1889's disastrous Johnstown Flood — and became the

first African-American to perform officially at the White House. He played to a packed house in Mobile on Nov. 17, 1891.

In the Los Angeles Times' review of Deirdre O'Connell's book on Wiggins, it was noted Wiggins' tale is a "story with bottomless complexity, touching on race and sanity and slavery and art. But ultimately his life makes us think about what it means to be human."

Steinway Artist John Davis has played a major role in the revival of interest in Blind Tom with a CD of his music and a multimedia concert exploring his life and art. He will perform also in Tuscaloosa, Tuskegee and Demopolis.

John Davis will also meet the public at Broussard's Piano Gallery and Academy of Music (1541 E. Interstate 65, Service Rd. S.) on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 5 p.m., the day before his Laidlaw program. For more info, call the Gallery at 251-344-8856.

Davis' Mobile performance is presented in memory of Albert Murray, a Southern Literary Trail author from the area, whose works include *Stomping the Blues* and other essays on the history and influence of African-American music. For additional info, Mobile Arts Council at 251-432-9796.

Other Literary Trail events for the spring include a Eugene Walter Porch Play at the Cox-Deasy Cottage on March 14, screenings of William Wyler's "Jezebel" and "The Little Foxes" on March 21, a survey of Eugene Walter's film career on March 29 and a discussion of Mobile artist and writer Emma Langdon Roche on April 16.

For more info on these and other events, go to [southernliterarytrail.org](http://southernliterarytrail.org).

## University of Mobile hosts classical magic off campus

The University of Mobile has gifted Mobile with its Performing Arts Series. The 10 shows reveal a panorama of arts — jazz, opera, sacred music, musical theater — to enhance the area's cultural pastiche in venues more associated with the sacred.

The next performance is a night of classical music on Feb. 24, 7 p.m. at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church, on the southeast corner of Dauphin and Catherine streets in Midtown. Parking is available behind the church and across the intersection.

Fitting for a setting touched by solemnity, this performance bears an ominous back-story. As classical music fans and film buffs who saw 1984's "Amadeus" recall, master composer Mozart began his "Requiem in D Minor" in 1791, it being a commission through intermediaries for a noble's dead wife.

Mozart died before finishing the piece and the remainder was completed by composers Joseph von Eybler and Franz Süssmayr. There might have been contributions by yet other unknown composers as Mozart's widow had

to present a finished score to the benefactor to claim sorely needed funds.

Dr. Scott Wright, University of Mobile conductor-in-residence, is guest conductor. Admission is \$5 and tickets are available at the door, at [iTickets.com](http://iTickets.com) or by calling the UMobile Center for Performing Arts at 251-442-2383.

For more information about the University of Mobile Center for Performing Arts, visit [www.umobile.edu](http://www.umobile.edu) or call 251-442-2222 or 800-WIN-RAMS.

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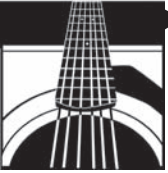
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# Pickin' in Paradise with Jim Hurst

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

**Band: Jim Hurst**

**Date: Thursday, Feb. 26 at 8:30 p.m. (workshop at 6 p.m.)**

**Venue: Picker's Paradise, 35056 State Highway 59 in Stapleton, www.pickersparadiseguitars.com**

**Tickets: \$10 at the door/\$50 for workshop**

**P**icker's Paradise is a haven for all things acoustic, and soon the musical emporium will host one of Americana's most accomplished and revered guitarists. From bluegrass to blues to folk, Jim Hurst is a master of all things Americana, which he translates through his acoustic guitar. Pulling from muses ranging from Jerry Reed to Merle Travis, Hurst has made a name for himself as a session musician for musical acts such as Sara Evans, Trisha Yearwood and Clare Lynch & the Back Porch String Band. The seasoned musician will be stopping by Picker's Paradise to share both music and knowledge, and he was gracious enough to give Lagniappe a preview of what to expect.

**SC:** Americana is such a broad term these days. What do you think about how the Americana label is used in modern times?

**JH:** Honestly, I wish it were a better received term, because I think it serves a purpose. I think boxes are made for merchandise, so I understand the resistance to acceptance of the term Americana. There used to be a radio station in Georgia near Dahlonega that was a really good station for Americana. There have been several stations that include that term in their description, and a lot of artists do as well. I have done it over the years, and I go back and forth about it. I think it's different than folk and different than country or bluegrass and different than singer-songwriter. I think it serves its purpose, but if we could just put everything under one name and let the artist's name separate everything. People are used to boxes and divisions. When they go to the music store to find a country album, then that's what they're looking for. They're not looking for blues or folk. They're looking for country. I get it. I think for folks like you who have a lot of CD's available and different kinds of records available for your playlists, I don't know if you separate things like that. I've been to some stations where they sort it by artist name. I guess it's just whatever works for you. It's really a benign thing to me, but some folks don't accept it well.

**SC:** I was introduced to the flat-picking style of playing guitar several years ago. What was it about flat-picking that appealed so much to you?

**JH:** First of all, I grew up in a household where my dad and older brother played. They both used a flat pick. Back then, they didn't really call it flat-picking. They just called it playing the guitar. That shows my age, but age is a good thing. It's better than the alternative. When I sat and watched my dad play, he played similarly to Mother Maybelle Carter of The Carter Family and Doc Watson and Norman Blake. He had that rhythm that was a natural thing for a guitar player from the Appalachians. I picked it up early on from watching my dad and brother using a pick and

other people who would come over to play with my dad. That's how they did it. Then, I started to get interested in Merle Travis and Doc Watson playing finger style. So, a friend of my dad brought over a thumb-pick, and I started playing finger style.

The term "flat-picking" kind of came after folks like Dan Crary. He took a flat pick and made it a little more complex. His approach to melodic lines and cross-pick kind of things not only as filler. He also used it as a different way to play melody lines. When you use the term "flat-picker" these days, it's more associated with the bluegrass guitar player who plays with a flat-pick, and it's not just rhythm or a Carter style, where you're playing a melody while you're playing rhythm alongside of it. In the case of Dan Crary and some after them, they used that as the solo effort, and it's only what you're playing as opposed to the rhythm. It's the same tool, because you're using a flat pick, but I think the terminology was used separately at different times. Jeremy Martin used a flat pick, but he started with a thumb pick. When he played with a flat pick, he played rhythm and never took a solo, but he they stilled called him a flat-picker.

**SC:** Your new album is called "Looking Glass." You do solo guitar and voice on it. For someone who is such as session musician, what's it like to go into the studio and work on your own stuff?

**JH:** It's really freeing. It doesn't pay the same. I have to pay myself. It's like being a plumber. Most plumbers don't pay themselves. They pay their bills and give the rest of the money to their wife. When they work on their own plumbing, they don't get paid for that. When I work on my own project, there are great things with that. There's also a lot of responsibility. Of course, I'm the one that has to pay all the bills, because it's my effort. I don't have a label contract or anything. When I go into the studio, I have to pay for the studio time and pay the engineer and pay the mastering and to get it replicated and the artwork. A lot of it, I can do myself. When I do session work, I do what the producer asks me to do. The producer will hire me, because he or she likes what I do on the guitar. They know what to expect when they hire me to come in. When they hire me, particularly, they're usually looking for a certain style that I happen to possess. I try to do that the best I can without fitting what they're asking for. When I do my own recording, I'm the producer, and I'm the one choosing the material. I know who I want to play with, if I play with anyone.

**SC:** You'll also be doing a guitar clinic at Picker's Paradise. What will that be like?

**JH:** That's a good question, Stephen. Every clinic seems to be its own kind of thing. What I mean by that is that one clinic might be more bluegrass oriented and the next one might be across the board from bluegrass to blues to folk to jazz. The next one might



Photo/jimhurst.com

**Guitarist Jim Hurst will stop by Picker's Paradise to share music and knowledge Feb. 26.**

be more finger style compared to flat-pick. I try to give basic information, but I tailor it to who's there. If all the people there are thumb pickers, I don't pull my flat pick out. If it's a mixture of flat-pick and thumb pick, then I try to give everybody something. If it's more bluegrass, then I stay with bluegrass. If it's more of a finger style, country thing I stay in there. Depending on who comes to the workshop, I will do my best to give enough information to folks. I like to give people enough information, so they will be a better player afterwards. They're not going to realize that today, tomorrow or next week. The things I share are things that I use in my own musical growth and things I've learned at other musical camps. I try to make people better fishermen, as opposed to giving them another fish. If I give people that they can work on their own playability, then they can structure that to a point that they can grow with the fun of it.

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# Hangout Fest adds Grammy darling Sam Smith

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



When it comes to major music festivals, music lovers experience an annual buzz of anticipation for the first announcement of artists. After the first line-up of artists is revealed, festival-goers become ravenous to know just who will be added in the second round of announcements. Hangout Fest 2015 (May 15-17) thrilled the masses with their initial announcement, which included Beck and Zac Brown Band. Recently, Hangout Fest quelled many rumors about additions to the festival's line-up with their second round of artists who will be heading to Gulf Shores.

Sam Smith is probably the biggest standout revealed in this round of artist announcements. This soulful UK crooner reached superstar status with his hit "Stay With Me," which was found on his debut "In the Lonely Hour." He was also a standout at the Grammy Awards, where he took home awards for "Best Pop Vocal Album," "Record of the Year" and "Song of the Year." Smith's smooth vocal work should provide a mellow set to which festival-goers can relax in the warm sands that line the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition to Smith, Hangout Fest 2015 has also added artists such as Tove Lo, Sylvan Esso, Joey Bada\$\$, Deap Valley, Jeff the Brotherhood, SNBRN, Natural Child, Floating Action, Firekid and Elliot Root.

Tickets for Hangout Fest are on sale now online. VIP and travel packages are available as well.



Photo/ facebook.com/samsmithworld

Grammy winner Sam Smith is one of the most recent additions to the Hangout Fest 2015 lineup.

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# Funky mummies coming to Soul Kitchen

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

**F**unk is one of the most unique and interesting genres in contemporary music. In its early days, bands such as Parliament Funkadelic and Earth, Wind & Fire wrapped the world in funk's warm, danceable grooves. The same bands also provided a unique live delivery of their sounds. Parliament and Earth, Wind & Fire would typically dazzle the audience with psychedelic costumes and an impressive stage show.

The Azalea City will soon experience the next step in funk's evolution on Thursday, Feb. 26, when Here Come the Mummies make their debut at Soul Kitchen. Ten members strong, this band of impressive looking (and sounding) mummies (that's right mummies) have been getting crowds moving and grooving nationwide for many years. According to Java Mummy, the funk was a natural choice for this band.

"We have always endeavored to make people sweat and shake," Java said. "Once you make a crowd dance, you never want it to end. What better than funk to make them move? That said, we do tend to genre hop at will from Latin to metal, but all our songs were written to punch you in the pants."

While Java will admit that their appearance may initially be a hindrance, he claims that it does not take the crowd long to get over their look. He says that the fans who do not demand their money back

are fans for life. Their musical prowess is legendary, and there are many rumors that some of the men behind the wrappings are actually Grammy Award winners. However, Java was quick to avoid dispelling that rumor.

"It would be so much tastier for the rumors to be about which starlet we are currently sporting on the French Riviera," Java said.

Last year was a big one for Here Come the Mummies. In an effort to appeal to their ever-growing fan base of young people, the band decided to release their entire collection of albums as free downloads through their website. The move culminated in the release of "Boxicology," a physical box set containing the band's entire catalog. The band did not have big expectations as far as sales go, but "Boxicology" sold out in a week.

"Since we had given away each EP as a free download only, we had zero expectation of selling many of the box sets," Java said. "We were thrilled to sell out within a week."

The Azalea City should take advantage of what the rest of the world has been enjoying. As far as sonic expectations are concerned, Java said to prepare for "eight, slightly scary, mummies pumping out non-stop energetic trouser music, with an insane horn section and maddeningly catchy songs."



Photo/ herecomethemummies.com

Funk band Here Come the Mummies will make their Mobile debut at Soul Kitchen Feb. 26.

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# Mulligan Brothers headline Pirates Take the Pond

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

**Band:** 2nd annual Pirates Take the Pond  
**Date:** Sunday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m.  
**Venue:** The Frog Pond at Blue Moon Farm (call 251-232-3072 for directions)  
**Tickets:** \$25/\$50 for VIP available at [www.brownpaper-tickets.com](http://www.brownpaper-tickets.com)

The Frog Pond's sonic amphibians and Pirate's Cove's Riff-Raff are once again coming together to focus on charity. Pirates Take the Pond is a philanthropic event that was created to raise money for Fairhope Middle School. Last year's inaugural event was a great success, and the event's organizers are inviting the public to come enjoy an afternoon of music for a worthy cause. This installment of Pirates Take the Pond will be raising money to build an outdoor classroom and a special needs playground at Fairhope Middle School. Those who purchase VIP tickets will not only receive special seating, but they will also have their names engraved on a plaque that will be erected on the new playground.

The Frog Pond always features an impressive lineup, and Sunday night will be no exception. First, Harrison McInnis and Lisa Mills will give the audience a healthy dose of local soul. Eric Erdman and Jon Cook will also bring their homegrown sounds. Callaghan's favorite Oh! Jeremiah will be stopping by to tell a few musical tales. And the Mulligan Brothers will serve as the evening's headliner.



Photo/ themulliganbrothers.com | Mulligan Brothers

## Time for a SNAK at the Mule

**Band:** SNAK, The Dulac Smack  
**Date:** Friday, Feb. 20, 9 p.m.  
**Venue:** The Blind Mule, 57 N. Claiborne St., [www.theblindmule.net](http://www.theblindmule.net)  
**Tickets:** \$5 at the door

The Blind Mule remains one of the best music venues in Mobile to experience some of the freshest local sounds, and on Friday, Feb. 20 patrons will have a chance to check out SNAK. Carson Taylor (guitar/vocals), Jonathan Ashley (drums/vocals) and Julian "Frankenstein" Truxillo (bass/vocals) are the brains behind the band.

With influences ranging from Frank Zappa to Parliament Funkadelic, this band has made it their mission to "uplift the original music scene." The Azalea City has not seen a band like this in quite some time. Their original track "Summit" begins as a playful jazz number before falling into a downward spiral of funky wah-wah and intense tribal beats. "I Was Asleep" is the perfect mix of prog rock and jam. If SNAK continues down this musical path, then locals can expect more great sounds from them.

The Dulac Smack will be coming to Mobile by way of Houma, Louisiana. This group will expose the crowd to their infectious brand of rock 'n' roll. The Dulac Smack has a rock sound that has been dragged through the grime and marinated in soul. The band will be playing tracks off of their release "FreE.P."



Photo/ dulacsmack.com | Dulac Smack

## Heart heads to Hard Rock

**Band:** Heart  
**Date:** Friday, Feb. 20, doors at 6:30 p.m.  
**Venue:** Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 777 Beach Blvd., [www.hardrockbiloxi.com](http://www.hardrockbiloxi.com)  
**Tickets:** \$59.99-\$89.99 available through Ticketmaster

Rock 'n' roll reached one of many apices in the '70s. During the decade, young rockers came together to form bands and create sounds that could only be contained by an arena. Heart was an extremely unique rock outfit for the time. In the history of rock, there are very few co-ed bands. Heart's line-up featured sisters Ann (vocals) and Nancy (guitar) Wilson. The Wilsons led this band and left the remaining rhythm and guitar duties to the men.

Heart could be considered one of the most heavily rotated bands on classic rock radio. It is a rare occasion that one can listen to classic rock radio for an hour and not hear hits such as "Barracuda" and "Crazy for You." While their crowd favorites should be expected, the Wilsons usually have a few more surprises for their audience. Their renditions of Led Zeppelin's music are quite impressive.



Photo/ heart-music.com | Heart



# FEBRUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 25

AREA MUSIC LISTINGS | MUSIC

## THUR. FEB 19

**Alchemy**— Ryan Balthrop  
**Bill's by the Beach**— Damien Lamb, 5:30p  
**BLUEGILL**— Harrison McInnis Duo, 6p  
**Blues Tavern**— Rebecca Barry Trio, 8:30p  
**Cockeyed Charlie's**— Karaoke w/ Brandon  
**Felix's**— Bobby & Jana  
**Flora Bama**— T. Bone Montgomery, 3p// Mark Sherrill, Chris Newbury & Mickey Springston, 5p  
**Legacy**— Ryan Balthrop, 7p  
**Lulu's**— Adam Holt, 4p  
**Old 27 Grill**— Songwriters Night, 6:30p  
**R-Life Live**— Grant Dunaway  
**Traders**— The Lizards, 7p  
**Soul Kitchen**— The Flaming Lips, 7:30p  
**Veets**— Stan Foster & Phil Proctor, 8p

## FRI. FEB 20

**Beau Rivage**— Michael Bolton  
**Bill's by the Beach**— Lisa Zanghi, 7p  
**Blind Mule**— SNAK with The Dulac Smack, 10p  
**BLUEGILL**— Dale Drinkard, 11a// Blind Dog Mike, 6p  
**Blues Tavern**— Ric McNaughton Band, 9p  
**Cockeyed Charlie's**— 3HG N Pieces  
**Flora Bama**— J. Hawkins & James Daniel, 2p// Jack Robertson Show, 5:30p// Johnny Barbato, 6p// LeaAnne Creswell, John Joiner, Darrel Roberts, 6p// Jay Williams Band, 9:30p  
**Hard Rock (Center Bar)**— Radio Inc.

**Hard Rock (Live)**— HEART, 8p  
**Legacy**— The Modern El Dorados, 9p  
**Lulu's**— Jeri, 4p  
**Main Street Cigar Lounge**— Brandon White, 8p  
**Moe's BBQ (Mobile)**— Melissa Joiner, 6:30p  
**Moe's BBQ (Daphne)**— Cat and the Truth, 8p  
**Old 27 Grill**— Hannah Wallace, 6:30p  
**Pelican Patio**— Mike Eagan  
**Record Bar**— Johnny No  
**R-Life Live**— Grant Dunaway  
**Royal Knight**— Karaoke w/ Gary  
**Tamara's Downtown**— Jim Andrews  
**Tropics**— The Groove  
**Veets**— The Family Jewels, 8p  
**Windmill Market**— Lonesome Mel, 11a// Eric Jones Duo, 6p

## SAT. FEB 21

**Bill's by the Beach**— Barstool Surfers, 7p  
**Blind Mule**— Comedy Whatever, 10p  
**BLUEGILL**— Dale Drinkard Duo, 6p  
**Blues Tavern**— Chico & Chris, 9p  
**Callaghan's**— Roman Street  
**Cockeyed Charlie's**— DJ Chill  
**Felix's**— Blind Dog Mike  
**Flora Bama**— Elanie Petty, 4p// Jack Robertson Show, 5:30p// Jezebel's Chill'n, 6p// LeaAnne Creswell, John Joiner, Darrel Roberts, 6p// Hung Jury, 9:30p// Hart Break Hill, 10p  
**Hard Rock (Center Bar)**— Radio Inc.

**IP Casino**— KC and The Sunshine Band, 8p  
**Legacy**— Holli Mosley and Tim Kinsey, 7p  
**Lulu's**— CoConut Radio, 4p  
**Moe's BBQ (Mobile)**— Philos Moore, 6:30p  
**O'Daly's**— Danny Spiro and the Wingmen  
**Old 27 Grill**— The Budz, 6:30p  
**Pelican Patio**— Craig & Jeremy  
**R-Life Live**— Lee Yankie  
**Top of the Bay**— Super Funk Fantasy  
**Tropics**— Soulshaker  
**Saenger**— Mobile Symphony Orchestra: Back to Bach  
**Veets**— The Family Jewels, 8p  
**Windmill Market**— Jimmy Lumpkin, 11a

## SUN. FEB 22

**Bill's by the Beach**— Barstool Surfers, 11a  
**BLUEGILL**— Dale Drinkard, 11a// Adam Holt Band, 6p  
**Callaghan's**— Dale Drinkard, Brandon Whigham and Brandon White  
**Felix's**— Jimmy Lumpkin  
**Flora Bama**— Beachbillys, 12p// Perdido Brothers, 4p// Lee Yankie Duo, 8p  
**Lulu's**— Greg Brown, 1p// Greg Brown, 5p  
**Old 27 Grill**— Lisa Zanghi, 11:30a  
**Picklefish**— Bayou Rhythm, 12p  
**Pinzones**— Ross Newell, 5p  
**Tamara's Downtown**— Jermaine English  
**Soul Kitchen**— RS Battle League, 9p  
**Veets**— Chris Powell & Timmy Dennis, 8p

## MON. FEB 23

**Felix's**— Bobby Butchka  
**Flora Bama**— Elaine Petty, 8p// Cathy Pace, 4p  
**Lucky's Irish Pub**— Marcus  
**Lulu's**— Brent Burns, 4p  
**R-Life Live**— Ryan Balthrop

## TUE. FEB 24

**BLUEGILL**— B White, 6p  
**Butch Cassidy's**— Al & Cathy  
**Felix's**— Bryant Gilley  
**Flora Bama**— Cowboy Johnson, 3p// Perdido Brothers, 7p  
**Lulu's**— Delta Reign Duo, 4p  
**R-Life Live**— David Chastang  
**Shipp's Harbor Grill**— Brent Burns, 4:30p  
**Veets**— Ryan Balthrop & Drew Bentley, 8p

## WED. FEB 25

**BLUEGILL**— Ross + 1, 6p  
**Blues Tavern**— The Ramblers, 8p  
**Bucky's Birdcage (Grand Hotel)**— Adam Holt Piano Show, 8p  
**Callaghan's**— Deluxe Trio  
**Cockeyed Charlie's**— Brandon White  
**Flora Bama**— Tommy Mazulle & Rick Whaley, 11a// Neil Dover, 3p// Smokin' Elvis', 7p  
**Legacy**— Lee Yankie, 7p  
**Lulu's**— Ronnie Presley, 4p  
**R-Life Live**— Brett LaGrave  
**Shipp's Harbor Grill**— Brent Burns, 4:30p  
**Veets**— Grits N' Pieces, 8p

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212 Fairhope Ave. | 928-4100

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www.mcsharrys.com  
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www.moesoriginalbbq.com  
6423 Bayfront Pk Dr. | 625-7427

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www.papaspizza.com  
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**Courtyard 311**  
311 Fairhope Ave. | 928-2032

**Ravenite Pizzeria** [Fairhope]  
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www.rosiesgrill.com  
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www.handlebarpensacola.com  
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**Pelican Reef Restaurant**  
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# Gyllenhaal's sociopathic newsman is disturbingly convincing

BY ASIA FREY/FILM CRITIC | afrey@lagniappemobile.com

If you were affronted that Brian Williams inserted himself in a news story to make it more interesting, wait until you get a load of Jake Gyllenhaal's amoral video stringer in "Nightcrawler." In the hands of a less-skilled actor, Gyllenhaal's character, Louis Bloom, might be wagging a finger about the travesty of gory news as spectacle entertainment. "Nightcrawler" is about that, but what makes it so intense and interesting is the character at the "heart" of the matter.

When we first see Lou Bloom, he's clipping away some wire fence to sell at a scrap metal place. He addresses a security guard with a wide-eyed, Eddie Haskell politeness, then quickly jumps him for his watch. Soon, he's trying to get an internship at the scrap metal place, which, by the way, is not a thing.

Spouting canned business platitudes about skill sets, aptitude and goals, Bloom applies corporate drivel to street wise money making, and finds his calling when he witnesses a car crash and the phenomenon of "nightcrawling," in which freelance camera men race to crime and accident scenes to snag bloody footage for the television news. It's not illegal, just distasteful to stick a camera in the face of a bleeding gunshot victim, and distasteful is not a problem for Bloom. His sociopathic lack of humanity gives him the perfect degree of



Photo/imdb.com | "Nightcrawler"

**Jake Gyllenhaal portrays a sociopathic newsman in the thriller "Nightcrawler."**

detachment necessary, and then some.

When he meets a veteran news director, Rene Russo, he finds the perfect outlet for his

footage and her encouragement drives him further into his new career, at which he quickly improves. He hires a desperate homeless guy as an employee, conducting the job interview as if he were the president of Microsoft.

He easily slips beyond the boundaries of appropriateness when, arriving before the police, he drags a dead body to a better cinematic angle at a car crash scene. His face as he crafts a great shot is pure joy and satisfaction showing he has no compunction whatsoever. When he makes good time to a triple homicide scene, he just goes further.

Jake Gyllenhaal was robbed of a Best Actor Oscar nomination for this role; the script was justly nominated for Best Writing. As written and portrayed, Lou Bloom is a loner groomed by constant Internet reading to create a truly eccentric way of talking.

Gyllenhaal gives him more than just crazy eyes, and makes his Boy Scout demeanor extremely disturbing. His obvious confidence in an act that is, in fact, utterly unconvincing creates an excellent tension, and his scenes with Rene Russo explore the nature of honor among thieves. As effective as it is as a character study, the action becomes flat out thrilling and suspenseful, and this is a fascinating, dark misadventure into a life driven by pure, pathetic ambition.

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## NEW IN THEATERS



Photos/imdb.com | "The Duff" (left), "Hot Tub Time Machine 2" (right)

### STILL ALICE

Julianne Moore earned an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Dr. Alice Howland, a renowned professor facing a devastating diagnosis on early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Her three grown children must watch helplessly as their vibrantly intelligent mother slips away, and clings to her sense of self as long as possible. Crescent Theater.

### THE DUFF

After discovering that's she is the "DUFF" or Designated Ugly Fat Friend, in her social group,

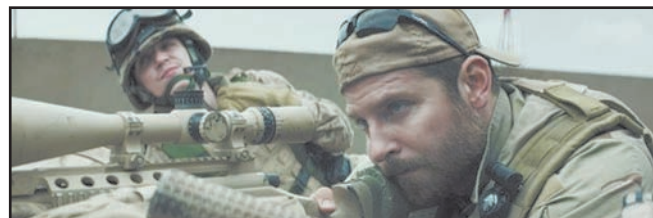
Mae Whitman ("Ann Veal" from "Arrested Development") sets out to rearrange the social pecking order. Cobb Pinnacle 14, Carmike Wharf 15

**HOT TUB TIME MACHINE 2**  
Yeah, that's just what the world needs. All listed multiplex theaters.

### MC FARLAND, USA

Kevin Costner, unnecessarily named Coach White, turns around a ragtag group of underdog athletes in a predominantly Latino high school. All listed multiplex theaters.

## NOW PLAYING



Photo/imdb.com | "American Sniper"

"Fifty Shades of Grey" All listed multiplex theaters.  
"Kingsman: The Secret Service" All listed multiplex theaters.  
"Jupiter Ascending" All listed multiplex theaters.  
"Seventh Son" All listed multiplex theaters.  
"The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge out of Water" All listed multiplex theaters.  
"Black or White" All listed multiplex theaters.  
"The Loft" All listed multiplex theaters.  
"Project Almanac" All listed multiplex theaters.

theaters.  
"Strange Magic" Regal Mobile Stadium 18, Carmike Wynnsong 16, Eastern Shore Premiere Cinema 14  
"The Boy Next Door" All listed multiplex theaters.  
"The Imitation Game" Regal Mobile Stadium 18, Carmike Jubilee Square 12, Cobb Pinnacle 14, Carmike Wharf 15  
"Pass the Light" Carmike Wynnsong 14  
"American Sniper" All listed multiplex theaters.  
"Paddington" All listed multiplex theaters.  
"The Wedding Ringer"

All listed multiplex theaters.  
"Taken 3" Regal Mobile Stadium 18, Carmike Wynnsong 16, Eastern Shore Premiere Cinema 14, Cobb Pinnacle 14  
"Selma" Regal Mobile Stadium 18, Carmike Wynnsong 16  
"Birdman" Carmike Wharf 15  
"Into the Woods" Regal Mobile Stadium 18, Carmike Wynnsong 16  
"Unbroken" Carmike Wharf 15  
"The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" Regal Mobile Stadium 18

## AREA THEATERS

**CARMIKE CINEMA'S**  
Wynnsong 16  
785 Schillinger 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 Daphne,  
(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 SHORE PREMIERE CINEMA 14**  
30500 Alabama 181 #500  
Spanish Fort, Al  
(251) 626-0352

Information accurate at press time; please call theaters for showtimes.



# And the circulars keep coming

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

**M**any who've tried to have the Press-Register stop throwing newspapers and/or advertising circulars in their yards each week are still reporting little success in getting it to happen.

As we and other media outlets have reported, the P-R's Yes and Bargain Finder products — essentially bags of advertising inserts wrapped in a single sheet of newsprint — were singled out by Mayor Stimpson's administration as playing a big role in the city's litter problem. Citing their First Amendment rights, the P-R has continued throwing these products, along with free newspapers, into the yards and properties where they have not been requested.

While the authorities at Alabama Media Group — which runs the P-R — have made almost no comment at all on this matter, they did let it be known local residents could request to not have things delivered and it would stop. But that doesn't seem to be the case for many.

Anecdotally, I've been told by scores of people they can't get the P-R to stop throwing. I know at my own house, where I have never requested any of the items, Gulf Coast Life — formerly known as Bargain Finder — continues to show up each week. And now the Sunday paper is being thrown sporadically.

My co-publisher, Ashley Trice, actually sat on the phone a couple of weeks ago to get put on the "do not throw" list, to no avail. She said the entire call — most of which consisted of sitting on hold — took 11 minutes and one second to complete. But Gulf Coast Life keeps coming and now she's

also getting the Sunday paper.

On a recent walk around the Lagniappe office's block, on a day when the Gulf Coast Life was delivered, at least two of the bags had broken and released their contents down the sidewalk, where they were blowing into to the streets and sewers. Stimpson's Administration has pointed out the circulars are ending up in the area's waterways.

It's hard to see how this situation will end, as many Mobilians would like to have these circulars stop being thrown, but they remain a good source of income for the company.

One suggestion is "Throwback Thursday." It stands to reason that if these circulars aren't litter when they're thrown in your yard they wouldn't be litter if they're thrown back at the al.com building on Royal Street downtown. If citizens are fed up enough to throw them back, perhaps it'll stop. Just a thought.

### Ericson lands at Bellingrath

Good news for one of the reporters recently laid off by the Press-Register a few weeks ago.

Sally Ericson, who most recently handled school coverage, among many other things, has been hired by Bellingrath Gardens and Home.

"I am very excited to announce that I have been hired as director of public relations and marketing at Bellingrath Gardens and Home. My first day will be March 2. Thanks so much to everyone who assisted in my job search. I appreciate all of your kind words and support!" Ericson wrote.

Congratulations.



▲ Photo/Lagniappe

**Circulars thrown by the Press-Register litter a midtown sidewalk recently. The mayor's office has identified the circulars as a major source of litter.**

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# MOBILE CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

**WHERE-** ABBA SHRINE CENTER, 10a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**WHEN-** FEBRUARY 21

Mobile Chocolate Festival will feature vendors offering samples of their chocolate-related products as well as selling their products. Children's Area, Mobile Fixture Demonstration Stage, Chocolate Challenge featuring professionals, amateurs, and youth divisions, Project Yum Way where students and aspiring designers participate in a fashion display of chocolate inspired fashions made from chocolate candy wrappers, Cupcake Booth, Chocolate Martini tasting, Magic Memories Photo Booth, and much more. All proceeds benefit Penelope House. General admission is \$3. The Chocolate Festival is held at the Abba Shrine Center, 7701 Hitt Road, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 251-342-2809.



Photo/Mobile Chocolate Festival

## February 19

### Government Street Forum

Join the Government Street Presbyterian Church for lunch and a speaker every Thursday through March 26. The speaker will be Carol Hunter, communications director, Downtown Mobile Alliance. The lunch and forum is held in the church's Fellowship Hall at the Jackson Street entrance on Government and Jackson streets. Lunch is served at noon and costs \$10, which includes tea, coffee and dessert. There is no charge to attend the forum. For information, call the church office at 251-432-1749.

### Thursdays at the Museum

Every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. the Mobile Museum of Art, 4850 Museum Drive, 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.

## February 20

### Church Revival

Join West Side United Methodist Church and Rev. Robert Neil McDavid on Ash Wednesday for a Church Revival. Guest Singer groups will include The Douglas Family and Four Old Hearts. The revival will start at 6 p.m. with refreshments. West Side United Methodist Church is located at 269 Mohawk St. For more information call 251-478-3721.

## Ark of India

"Ark of India: An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Asia" is an exhibit about personal discovery and exploration. It is an account of late 19th and early 20th century India as seen by Alabama artist Roderick D. MacKenzie, using his paintings, drawings, sculptures and most importantly, photographs and writings. The exhibition is organized by the History Museum of Mobile at 111 S. Royal St. and is on view until Sept. 1, 2015. Admission is free.

## February 21

### Mobile Chocolate Festival

Mobile Chocolate Festival will feature vendors offering samples of their chocolate-related products as well as selling their products. Children's Area, Mobile Fixture Demonstration Stage, Chocolate Challenge featuring professionals, amateurs, and youth divisions, Project Yum Way where students and aspiring designers participate in a fashion display of chocolate inspired fashions made from chocolate candy wrappers, Cupcake Booth, Chocolate Martini tasting, Magic Memories Photo Booth, and much more. All proceeds benefit Penelope House. General admission

is \$3. The Chocolate Festival is held at the Abba Shrine Center, 7701 Hitt Road, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 251-342-2809.

### The Gator Chase 2015

Certified 5K course and 1-mile fun run. Race day registration from 7 until 7:45 a.m. at Meaher State Park. Awards for top male and female finishers and several age categories. \$16-\$20. Proceeds benefit the Spanish Fort Education Enrichment Foundation (SFEFF) in providing educational enrichment opportunities for students who attend Spanish Fort schools. Call SFEFF at 251-510-1669 for additional information.

### FootGolf

Soccer Meets Golf in the inaugural Baldwin County FootGolf Tournament at Lakewood Golf Club. Instead of golf clubs and balls, players kick soccer balls into the enlarged hole. FootGolf is a new sport that is sweeping the national, combining the skill of golf and the athleticism of soccer into one great sport. The practice range and registration opens at 8 a.m. Review of format and rules at 9:45 a.m. with the tournament starting at 10 a.m. and lunch at 1 p.m. Entry fee is \$20 per person and includes tee shirt and lunch. For more information and to sign up call 251-990-6312.

### Mobile Symphony Orchestra: Back to Bash

In "Back to Bach," Grammy-nominated conductor Patrick Quigley proves his national reputation as a conductor of Baroque music. Transforming the Mobile Symphony into a Baroque ensemble, Quigley leads the MSO in music from and inspired by that incredible time in music history. Also featured in this performance is soprano Kathryn Mueller performing Mozart's joyous motet, "Exsultate Jubilate." This event is held at the Saenger Theatre, 6 S. Joachim St. For tickets or more information visit mobilesymphony.org.

### An intimate evening with Ken Ford II

The "King of Strings" Ken Ford performs popular hip-hop and R&B classics. A dynamic electric violinist, Ford creates a jam session like no other. \$45 admission benefits the John McClure Snook Youth Club of Foley, a United Way Partner Agency. 7:30 p.m. at the Foley Civic Center, 405 E. Laurel Ave. Tickets available at brownpapertickets.com or at the door.

### Rabies Clinic

The Mobile County Health Department provides low cost rabies shots for cats, dogs and ferrets during weekend clinics. This weekend's rabies clinic is at St. Elmo

Feed and Seed, 9001 U.S. Highway 90 W. 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The cost of the rabies vaccine is \$8. For more information call 251-690-8823.

### Greenleaf Writer's Group

The Greenleaf Writer's Group is currently welcoming new members. We meet every third Saturday of the month at the Semmes library from 10 a.m. until noon. If you are an aspiring writer, come join us. For more information call 251-490-5199.

## February 22

### Gala of Royal Horses

The Gala of The Royal Horses Inaugural North American world-renowned equestrian tour is coming to Mobile at 3 p.m. to the Mobile Civic Center. Audiences will experience the excitement, splendor, and majesty of the Gala of the Royal Horses as the show makes its U.S. debut. The Gala of the Royal Horses is a spectacular entertainment event combining the most beautiful horses in the world with live performers, creating a breathtaking event for the entire family. The Gala of the Royal Horses is a "must see" for horse lovers and families. Visit mobilecivicctr.com for more information and tickets.

### Open Studio

Come enjoy complimentary mimosas as artists work at the Cathedral Square Gallery, 612 Dauphin St. There will also be works by more than 60 area artists on display. For more information call 251-694-0278.

## February 23

### Teen Tech Tutor Program

The Baldwin County Library Cooperative (BCLC) recently implemented a Teen Tech Tutor program at the Robertsdale Library, 18301 Pennsylvania St., Robertsdale. This program is designed to match high school age students with strong technological skills with adults and seniors who are unfamiliar with basic laptop computer technology. The program is available Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is free of charge. An appointment is required and can be made by calling the library at 251-970-4010.

## February 24

### Baldwin County Young Republicans

Alabama Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard will be the guest speaker at the February meeting of the Baldwin County Young Republicans. The meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. in the meeting room at Bass Pro Shops in Spanish Fort Town Center. Admission is free and all are welcome. For more information call Matthew Brown at 251-279-0384.

## Tea for Two

The Fairhope Museum of History will host "Tea for Two" at 2 p.m. The speaker will be Owen Stimpson, Fairhope native, will talk about Stimpson's Saw Mill and attending the Organic School. Each Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m., the Museum hosts a tea where guests enjoy a cup of delicious Baldwin County tea, cookies and a lecture on an interesting aspect of Fairhope history. These very popular afternoon events are sponsored by the Friends of the Museum group. For more information on the upcoming "Tea for Two" programs, call the Fairhope Museum of History at 251-929-1471.

## February 25

### Lenten Music Series

Lenten noon-day concerts are 30 minutes, followed by a luncheon in the Chapter House. \$8 donation suggested. This concert features performances by Dr. Lauderdale, professor of organ at the University of West Florida and her son, Charles, a baritone vocalist in the studio of Professor Howard Reddy of UWF. The series are held at Christ Church Cathedral, 115 S. Conception St. For more information call 251-438-1822.

### Little Discoveries at the Exploreum

Little Discoveries is a weekly programming series in the Exploreum's Wharf of Wonder for children six and under. These lessons will fuse science, technology, engineering and math, with creativity, art and reading. Each session will begin with a story reading that will serve as the launching pad for the day's hands-on activities. Wednesdays 10-11 a.m. and Thursdays 2-3 p.m. at 65 Government St., downtown Mobile. For more information call Josh Holland at 251-208-6893 or email jholland@exploreum.com.

### Bend & Brew

Join Fairhope Brewing every Wednesday night starting at 6 p.m. for Hoppy Yoga. The taproom is transformed into a yoga studio with Soul Shine Yoga leading the session. It's only \$5 to participate in the class and then you can stick around for beer specials as well as light snacks provided by Pretty Mean Sweets. Fairhope Brewing is located at 914 Nichols Ave., Fairhope.

### Tour Space 301

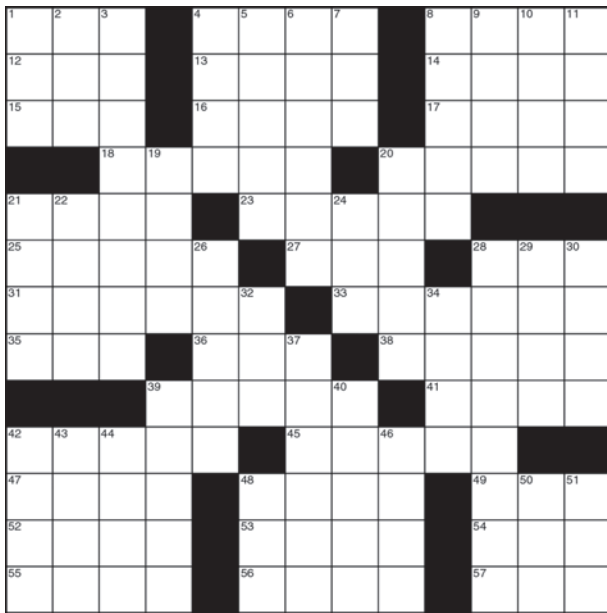
Tours of the Main Gallery and Fabrication Hall are every Wednesday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Centre for the Living Arts/Space 301, 301 Conti St. Tours included with the price of admission. Call 251-208-5671 or visit www.centreforthelivingarts.com for more information.

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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ACROSS

1. Pharaoh's nickname
4. Luau handouts
8. Press
12. Antipollution grp.
13. Inauguration recital
14. "I'm \_\_\_ you!"
15. Petition
16. Busboy's load
17. Teen \_\_\_
18. Oil supporter
20. Like a winter scene
21. When doubled, on the double
23. Finger or toe
25. Any port in a storm
27. Lowlife
28. Stretch, with "out"
31. Joan's "Dynasty" role
33. Faultfinder
35. Part of a price
36. Coral islet
38. Smoldering remnant
39. "Against the Wind" rocker
41. Swabs
42. Selfish sort
45. Symbols of industry
47. Bane of youth
48. Photo mishap
49. It runs in the forest
52. Propel, as into action
53. Eastern discipline
54. Poetic palindrome
55. Attaches, as patches
56. Flock members
57. Hangout



## DOWN

1. Brewer's product
2. Kind of truck
3. Assume control
4. Realtor's offering
5. Lop-\_\_\_ rabbit
6. Right-leaning type?
7. Like wallflowers
8. Show the way
9. Loosen
10. Put on board
11. Sacred
19. Height
20. Crab-like move
21. Crack, in a way
22. Robust
24. Chitchat
26. Comparatively considerate
28. Raised in relief
29. Castle's stronghold
30. Blunders
32. Problem of the middle ages?
34. BBs, e.g.
37. Chicken
39. Top competitors, often
40. Roulette bet
42. Memorial Day solo
43. Plot unit
44. Comprehend
46. Mardi \_\_\_
48. "Later"
50. Art, nowadays?
51. Ink holder

Answers on Page 41

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# International FootGolf craze kicks off in Baldwin County

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

**S**o what happens when you combine two of the most popular sports in the world? You end up with the game of FootGolf, of course!

While this is a relatively new activity in South Alabama, the American FootGolf League (AFGL) was actually founded in 2011. By the next year, the initial FootGolf World Cup took place in Budapest, Hungary.

FootGolf takes segments from its two base sports, although it is closer to golf than soccer. The game is played with a regulation FIFA No. 5 ball (14-16 ounces with a circumference of 27-28 inches) for adults or a No. 4 ball (12-13 ounces with a 25-26 inch circumference) soccer ball for youth at a golf course facility on shortened holes with 21-inch diameter cups. The rules mostly follow the standard regulations of golf.

"FootGolf is a new unconventional game to help grow interest in golf," said Ted Bishop, president of PGA of America. "It combines the elements of soccer and golf on a modified course, and is growing in popularity across the nation."

Players have adopted their own unique style of clothing. Typical attire includes a flat (Hogan style) cap, collared shirt, knee-high argyle socks plus golf style pants, knickers or shorts. For the feet, the use of indoor or turf soccer shoes are allowed; not full cleats. For golf facilities with a strict dress code, FootGolfers are asked to abide those rules.

The AFGL certifies courses across America. The set-up can be either nine or 18 holes.

According to the AFGL website, there are currently three official courses in Alabama. The newest is Glenlakes Golf Club in Foley, which began play on Feb. 4. The other courses can be found in Montgomery at Tallapoosa Lakes Golf Course and in Anniston at Cane Creek Golf Course. There are also players at Cypress Lakes Golf Club in Cantonment, Florida.

Glenlakes has the first 18-hole course certified in southern Alabama. The green fees are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students up to the age of 18. Players may bring their own soccer ball, or rent one for \$1. The cart rental for 18 holes is \$9.

The hours for play start after 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, all day on Saturdays starting at 7:30 a.m., and Sundays from 7:30

to 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to closing. Glenlakes has two free practice holes adjacent to its game park and swimming pool. For more information and course rules, call 251-955-1220 or visit [www.glenlakesmgalga.com/FootGolf/footgolf.html](http://www.glenlakesmgalga.com/FootGolf/footgolf.html).

"We are very excited about FootGolf coming to our area, and thankful that Glenlakes has taken the initiative to build out the course," said John Guidroz of SnapSoccer.com, a management company that works with youth soccer clubs throughout the country. "Our team is looking forward to hosting our first FootGolf event in the near future."

The sport is beginning to spread across Baldwin County. On Saturday, Feb. 21, the inaugural Baldwin County FootGolf Tournament will take place at Lakewood Golf Club at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort. The back-nine holes of the Dogwood Golf Course will be used.

The practice range and registration opens at 8 a.m. A review of format and rules will begin at 9:45 a.m., with play starting at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m.

The tournament is open to the first 72 players to register, regardless of age. Children and adults are invited to play. Competitions are planned for both individual and teams of four.

First through third place will be recognized for players and teams. Other prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin and for longest kick.

The entry fee is \$20, which includes a T-shirt and hot dog. Carts are available for \$10 to players over the age of 16. For this event, soccer ball sizes 4 and 5 are permitted. Adult supervision is required for foursomes with children under 12. The dress code is golf attire. No soccer cleats or spiked golf shoes are allowed. Soccer socks are recommended.

For additional information, call the Lakewood Golf Shop at 251-990-6312.

To learn more about the sport itself, visit [www.afgl.us](http://www.afgl.us). The official newsletter for the AFGL can be found at [www.thisisfootgolf.com](http://www.thisisfootgolf.com).

## 'Precocious' wins spelling bee

As mentioned in a previous column, the GoDaddy Bowl

contributes to community events throughout the year and not just during football season. Along with New Horizons Credit Union, they helped to sponsor the 88th annual Mobile County Spelling Bee on Feb. 6.

More than 60 elementary and middle school students from public, private and parochial schools competed. Winning for the third consecutive year was Mariam Hashmi. The eighth-grader at Mobile Christian spelled "precocious" in the final round. Marian Zha of O'Rourke Elementary was second while Zoe Blanton of Hankins Middle placed third.

The GoDaddy Bowl and New Horizons provided gift bags to all participants, while Jimmy Johns served lunch. The top three finishers were awarded plaques and cash prizes.

Hashmi is automatically guaranteed a spot in the Alabama Spelling Bee March 7 in Birmingham. Adventure Travel, the state spelling bee sponsor, will award the state champion an all-expense paid trip for two to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., May 24-29.

## Busy on The Hill

Spring Hill College continues its transition into a NCAA Division II member. To help with the journey is Steve Wiczorek, who has been named the men's soccer coach. He comes to SHC after serving as an assistant coach at Oregon State, Duquesne and Siena.

"I am pleased that Steve will become our next head coach," said director of athletics Jim Hall. "It is exceptional to find a candidate who possesses both a strong professional preparation for the position, and a strong educational background in Jesuit education."

— Although SHC has left the Gulf South Conference, the league still recognized 25 of its soccer players on the 2014 GSC FireSeeds Fall Academic Honor Roll. The Badger men placed 12 student-athletes on the roster, while the women earned 13 spots.

The honor roll highlights varsity student-athletes with composite grand-point averages of 3.0, competing in their sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student years of eligibility.



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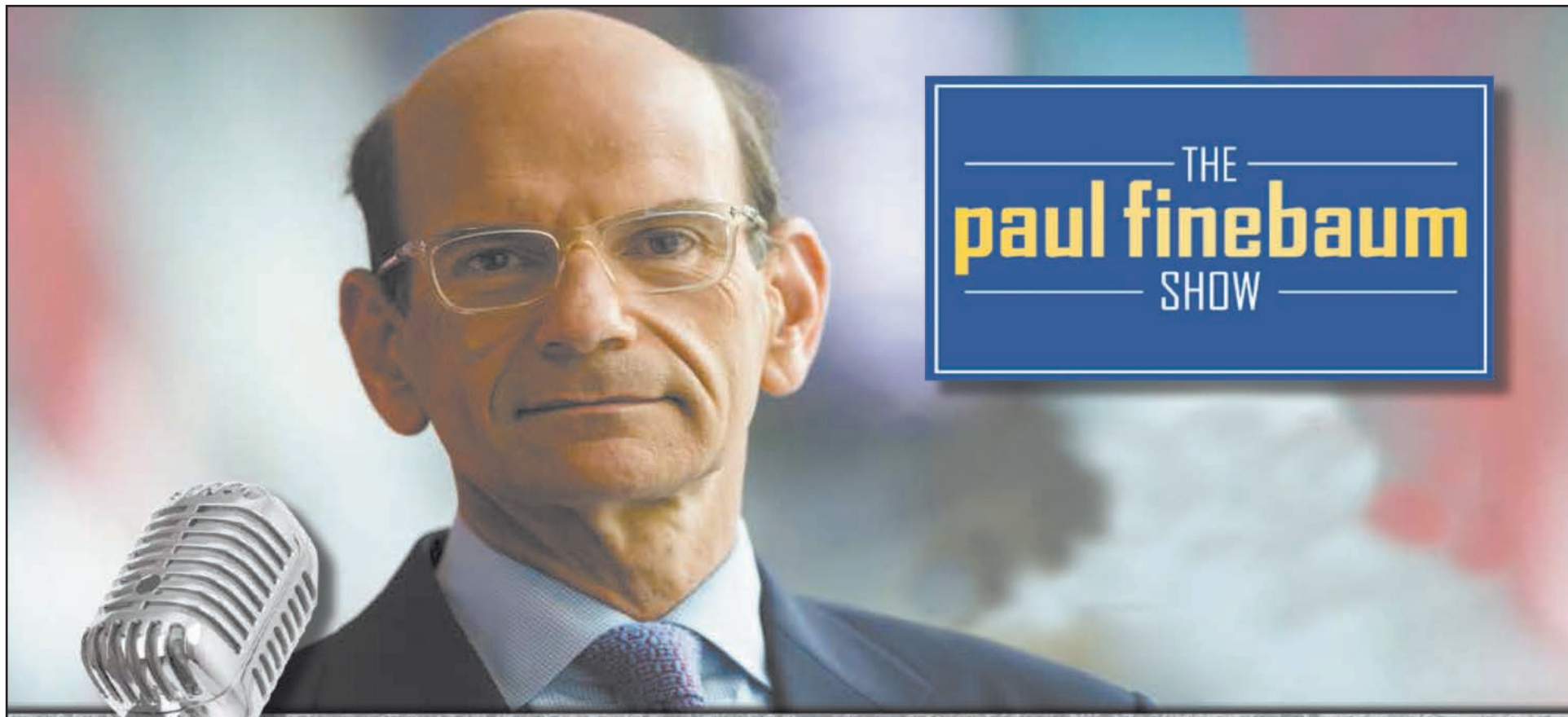
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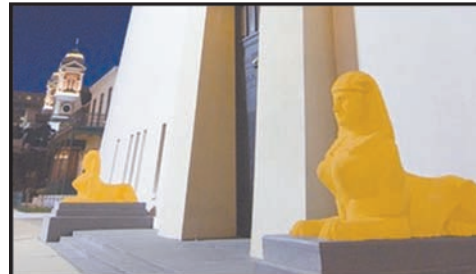
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DO NOW?**



"I wanted to be an astronaut and now I am a sales executive."

-Dwight



"I wanted to be like Donald Trump, now I am a historic renovation contractor here in Mobile."

-John Striker



"Zoologist, but I am current an ad sales rep and part owner in Geaux Boy food truck."

-Corey



# Leo lands on the no-fly list

BY DR. ZODIAC/ASTROLOGY GUY

**Pisces (2/19 - 3/20)** — Not seeing the progress anticipated with your weight loss goals, you opt for the slaw instead of the fries the next time you order the “almost famous” Butch Burger with cheese and bacon. Hoping to encourage you, your SO points out that slaw is hardly the more healthy option, what with all the copious amount of mayonnaise in every recipe. Defeated, you retreat to the bathroom to eat a Snickers bar in shame.

**Aries (3/21 - 4/19)** — Slightly amused at the news of a one-vehicle accident involving Oscar Meyer’s Wienermobile, you begin to think of euphemisms to describe the scene. The “fractured frank,” the “damaged dog” and the “road-weary wurst” come to mind, but “sausage shattered after sliding on a slick surface” sounds like it has some staying power. Years later, you’ll see the same headline on a blog for swingers.

**Taurus (4/20 - 5/20)** — You’ll become addicted to Girl Scout Cookies and spend your evenings rolling through town, looking for the closest Girl Scout to make a transaction. Now that they’ve got you hooked, several of the future businesswomen will begin to jack up the price. You’ll begin to rob liquor stores to get cookie cash. The vicious cycle will finally end when you wake up in Herndon Park in the middle of the night with cookie crumbs all over your face.

**Gemini (5/21 - 6/21)** — Still entrenched in your video game world, you’ll completely forget about the family gathering planned for Easter. You’ll ignore the several phone calls, texts, emails and Facebook messages reminding you of the trip. Instead you’ll sit at home, drenched in the light of your Playstation 4 and nourish yourself with Code Red Mountain Dew. You’ll finally leave the house, but will instantly begin to recreate your favorite video game scenes. You’re not well.

**Cancer (6/21 - 7/22)** — In an effort to meet someone new, you’ll setup a Match.com profile. In it, you’ll disclose your devotion to all things child food. You’ll write about the icky taste of fruits and vegetables, and you’ll admit your adoration of peanut butter. You’ll pat yourself on the back for your honesty and will eagerly await the date requests to come rolling in. It’ll be a long, cold winter and you won’t be able to figure out why.

**Leo (7/23 - 8/23)** — Depressed that Mardi Gras is over, you’ll start your own carnival organization. You’ll establish a GoFundMe account to fund your project, which will actually be doomed from the start. Deciding to name your group the Krewe of Al-Qaeda won’t be your best idea, but you’ll soon have members from all across the globe, coincidentally many from the Middle East. You’re lucky charm this month is an orange jumpsuit.

**Virgo (8/24 - 9/22)** — An upcoming trip will take a turn for the worse when TSA selects to search your bags at the airport. After inappropriately frisking and feeling you up, security will completely destroy your luggage to uncover the ropes, handcuffs and blindfolds you’ll have

stowed away. You’ll try to convince airport staff the items are a result of watching “50 Shades of Grey,” but you’ll be arrested and taken to jail, where one inmate in particular will really show you what 50 shades of gray looks like.

**Libra (9/23 - 10/22)** — Too much 50-percent-off leftover Valentine’s Day candy will nearly be the death of you this month. A week from Thursday, you’ll be indulging in the chocolate treats, and after one night of heavy binge eating, you’ll experience quite the scare. While lying in bed, you’ll regurgitate chocolate liquid and nearly aspirate. You’ll choke until you pass out, but thankfully, someone will call an ambulance. Barely escaping death by chocolate, you’ll start a campaign against Valentine’s Day, claiming it goes against the sanctity of marriage.

**Scorpio (10/23 - 11/21)** — Your dog gets loose this weekend and leads you to meet an exotic stranger. By the time the person finishes regaling you with a story of living among St. Bernards in the Swiss Alps, you’re thinking about wedding invitations. Your enthusiasm will crash the next day when you’re invited into the person’s house only to find no less than 10 St. Bernards. Even with the little barrels of whiskey around their necks, you’re not willing to handle that much dog musk. The song “Jenny” from the ‘80s gets stuck in your head to the point you think your own number is 867-5309.

**Sagittarius (11/21 - 12/22)** — Knowing that you’ll have Presidents’ Day to recuperate, you’ll take “Sunday Funday” to a new extreme at a local watering hole. Day drinking, dusk and night drinking are all combined in your admirable, but foolish tribute to some of our nation’s greatest political leaders. On the day itself, you’ll wake up with the driest of mouths, the heaviest of heads and the unmistakable feeling that you’ve been stuck by a public transportation vehicle — a feeling you’ll struggle to shake for at least four score and seven hours.

**Capricorn (12/22 - 1/19)** — You’ll have to reevaluate some of your lavatory habits after you realize the Wi-Fi connection in your house isn’t strong enough to pass through the walls of the bathroom. With a severe shortage of monthly data and rampant fear of missing even a single round of trivia crack, you’ll start doing your morning business with the bathroom door open. Though the idea is foolproof initially, you’ll feel like quite like quite an ass when your roommate walks in and scares you to the point of dropping your iPhone into the toilet just as you were about to correctly answer a question about Picasso.

**Aquarius (1/20 - 2/18)** — Examining information about public officials’ potential conflicts of interest, you decide to dig a little further into a state senator’s Acme Consulting Company. Turns out, the business is just a front for a European crime syndicate and the senator is using a loophole to siphon some of that sweet Alabama education money. The conspiracy will prove difficult to publicize after you notice a dark van tailing your moves. Suspect poison when an unanticipated box of beignets arrives on your doorstep.

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**FROM PAGE 37**

TONIGHT YOU WILL BE VISITED BY THE GHOSTS OF THREE JEWELRY SALESMEN ONE FROM KAY, WHO'S K BEGINS EVERY KISS THE SECOND FROM ZALES, AMERICA'S DIAMOND STORE, AND THE FINAL GHOST FROM JARED THE GALLERIA OF JEWELRY.

**FUTURE SHOCK**

THE GREAT GRANDSON OF EBENEZER SCROOGE IS VISITED BY GHOSTS AFTER REGULARLY BREAKING UP WITH GIRLFRIENDS RIGHT BEFORE VALENTINE'S DAY.



# The good times rolled all over us

BY BOOZIE BEER NUES/SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

**W**ell, we survived. Barely. I have never been so excited for Lent to come as I am this year. Mardi Gras is hard. Real, real hard. But I'll stop whining and get to the good stuff. Here's your Carnival Boozay. Dig on in!

## Joe Cain cray cray

Joe Cain is the day we say sayonara to the "royalty" and let the people take over the streets of downtown Mobile. And this year's parade was not without drama, as there were actually two Joe Cains in the parade, one dressed as Chief Slac. The other as Joseph Stillwell Cain. This caused quite a stir and happened because last year the marching group organizers wanted to start charging each person for parade insurance.

A group of folks within the group felt this was against the spirit of Joe Cain and broke off from them. They now have a fundraiser to cover the insurance so no one has to pay. I don't think many of the parade-goers even noticed the New Cain though or just didn't realize who he was, as the Chief Slac version is the most recognizable.

The Merry Widows and Mistresses, The Dauphin Street Drunks, Skeleton Crew, The Society of Bums and The Wild Mauvillians and Squaw-villians took to the streets along with other independent marchers.

At the beginning of the parade, one of the independent marchers had a wagon full of throws. When he turned the corner the wagon fell over and emptied on the ground. Instead of putting it all back in the wagon, he picked it up and threw it all to the crowd, which got a big response.

Another marcher also got a lot of attention. A gentleman who was quite "healthy" marched shirtless. He had elaborate body paint on and written on his back was "Eat at Bob's." Now that is eye-catching advertising!



Photo/Boozie Spy

## The Wild Mauvillians marched again Joe Cain Day and their party was a can't-miss.

The Wild Mauvillians looked amazing as Mardi Gras Indians with their elaborate headdresses and face paint. Their party at Moe's BBQ became the hottest ticket in town and sold out. The music by the Bay City Brass Band, Blow House Brass Band and Pine Hill Haints was perfect. After the parade, the new braves were initiated and became chiefs with names like Sugar Cube Disaster,

Whiskey Teet and everyone's favorite Chief Asparagus Piss.

Over in the OGD, Grayson Capps and the Jefferson Street Parade Band led a second line into Callaghan's to an absolutely packed house. Good times were definitely had by all. One "lady" was having such a good time she came out of the bathroom with her belt open. Oops.

## Without malice

The Comic Cowboys gave everyone a little preview of their floats at their barn party on Saturday, Feb. 7. Fred Richardson was the target of many, including one that read "The Village People brought to you by The Village Idiot," a reference to the band playing at Councilman MoonPie's New Years Eve Celebration and MoonPie Drop last year.

The Press-Register or as the Cowboys like to call them the "Cash Register" got a couple too, including one saying Mayor Stimpson's war on litter could begin by people stopping home delivery of it. Even Lagniappe was mentioned in a very risqué sign. It read, what do Hallie Dixon's male assistants and Lagniappe have in common. We can't really put the punch line, but let's just say it mentions our hideous pink boxes in a non-distribution-oriented way. Yikes!

The barn party was great, with chili dogs and tubs full of beer, one of which was knocked over at the end. Mayor Sandy Stimpson and Congressman Bradley Byrne were spotted, along with their lovely wives, as was FOX 10's Bob Grip and FM Talk's Wayne Gardner.

We will have some more Fat Tuesday gossip next issue, as the spies hadn't sobered up enough to file reports yet. But just remember, whether rain or shine, dramatic or scandalous, or just some plain ol' Chief Whiskey Teet lovin', I will be there. Ciao!

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