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WEEKLY

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INDIGENT INTERMENT

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Man assaults police officer in Wal-Mart skirmish

Compiled by Jason Johnson

A Mobile man remains in jail who police say struck an officer in the face after causing a disturbance at the Tillman’s Corner Wal-Mart over Memorial Day weekend.

According to police, 26-year-old Jacob Teofilo was intoxicated when he arrived at the store on Rangeline Road in the late hours of May 27.

After being asked to leave by a manager, Teofilo refused and police were eventually dispatched to the location. As officers from the Mobile Police Department arrived on scene, Teofilo is said to have struck a female officer in the face while being taken into custody.

Though the officer only sustained minor injuries, Teofilo has since been charged with second-degree assault.

According to Mobile County Metro Jail records, Teofilo has a laundry list of previous charges in the area dating back to his 18th birthday — including multiple charges related to theft and drug possession.

Local man charged after stealing cash, beer

On May 26, Mobile police say a man entered a gas station on Airport Boulevard, pulled a handgun on the cashier and then fled on foot with money and beer in tow.

According to a police report, the incident occurred at the Circle K located at 6900 Airport Blvd., where a cashier said a male subject used a semi-automatic handgun to rob the store before fleeing westward on foot.

On Tuesday, May 31, police identified that man as 31-year-old Solomon Singleton, who has since been charged with two counts of first degree robbery, public intoxication, disorderly conduct and discharging a firearm within the city limits.

It’s unclear if Singleton discharged his weapon during the robbery or at another time, but initial reports from police did not list the robbery as a shooting.

According to Mobile County Metro Jail Records, Singleton has recorded several previous charges in the area for drug-related issues and others for domestic violence.

Police arrest nine for prostitution

Mobile police made several arrests during a May 25 prostitution operation focusing on the Campground, Bot-toms and Maysville neighborhoods.

Several locations were searched after police say they received complaints of prostitution activity along Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and Ann Street in midtown Mobile.

As a result of the operation, two men and seven women were arrested on 10 misdemeanor charges.

Some of those arrested had previous charges for soliciting prostitution Mobile County, according to jail records.

According to police, Jessica Mose, Siobhan Thompson, Janice Henderson, Alesia Robinson, Melissa Trotter, Anita Young, Tremaine Barron and Timothy Patt were charged with soliciting prostitution during the operations. Henderson also faced an additional charge from unrelated misdemeanor warrant.

Last week’s arrests mark the second prostitution operation the Mobile Police Department has undertaken in the last three months.

On March 16, narcotics and vice officers with the MPD arrested 13 individuals at several hotels in the Beltline area in an operation the focused on prostitution activities being organized through the classified-style website backpage.com.



Photos/MCSO

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JACOB TEOFILO, SOLOMON SINGLETON, JESSICA MOSE AND TIMOTHY PATT.

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PM T-STORMS

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CHANCE OF RAIN 60% WIND: SSE AT 10 MPH

SUN JUN 5

THUNDERSTORMS

85° 70°

CHANCE OF RAIN 80% WIND: S AT 7 MPH

MON JUN 6

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88° 68°

CHANCE OF RAIN 60% WIND: SSW AT 7 MPH

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PM T-STORMS

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Carlos Kennedy returns to court for new indecent exposure charge

BY JASON JOHNSON/REPORTER | jason@lagniappemobile.com

Twice-convicted murderer Carlos E. Kennedy was in court again last week to face charges of indecent exposure after showing his genitals to a female corrections officer at Mobile Metro Jail earlier this month.

Kennedy, who was convicted in 2013 for killing Zoa White in her Spring Hill Avenue home, successfully appealed to have his death sentence overturned last year. In April, he represented himself in a retrial based on the same charges and evidence.

Despite calling no witnesses, presenting no evidence and only speaking to answer direct questions, Kennedy dodged the death penalty in the retrial. While the second group of jurors arrived at the same conclusion as those in 2013 — that Kennedy raped and beat White to death with a claw hammer after breaking into her home — eight of them didn't feel he deserved to die for it.

As a result, on May 5 Kennedy was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

However, the recent charges against Kennedy suggest he exposed himself to a woman tasked with guarding him only days after he received the reduced sentence.

According to Lori Myles, a spokesperson with the Mobile County Sheriff's Office, a female corrections officer at Mobile Metro Jail reported Kennedy exposed himself to her on May 8.

"The majority of our corrections officers are female," Myles said. "In a perfect world, you'd have female guards responsible for female inmates and male guards responsible for male inmates, but that's just not possible with the staff we have currently."

According to Myles, it's also not the first time Kennedy has subjected female corrections officers to this type of behavior.

According to jail investigators, Kennedy was cited for four similar incidents between March and November of 2012 while he was awaiting his first trial for White's murder. Prior to his arrest in the White case, jail records show Kennedy was also charged in a separate incident of indecent exposure in 2009.

The latest charge is the sixth time Kennedy has been reported as exposing himself in public or in custody. A Class-A misdemeanor, indecent exposure is typically handled in municipal court, but Kennedy landed in Mobile County District Court because it happened in a county facility.

After sitting through two trials and seeking justice for more than half a decade, White's family was upset Kennedy even had the opportunity to commit another crime in Mobile County when he was sentenced to serve a life sentence in a state prison less than a month ago.

White's daughter, Laurie Miller, told Lagniappe Kennedy shouldn't continue to be housed at the expense of the city and county

when he's already been convicted twice.

"He has been sentenced to death, and he has been sentenced to life without parole. Neither of those sentences can be efficiently or effectively carried out in Mobile County Metro Jail," Miller said. "He needs to serve his time as reprimanded in a state penitentiary. My family should not have to pass the jail every time we go through the tunnel and know he is there."

According to Myles, the delay in transferring Kennedy does cost local dollars, but she said it's the responsibility of the Alabama Department of Corrections to move him to a state facility.

"There are all kinds of reasons the state has — either they don't have room for him or they're waiting to group him with other people they need to transport," Myles said. "We're just sort of stuck with their timeline."

Bob Horton, a public information officer with the Department of Corrections, told Lagniappe "a person sentenced to state prison is required to be transferred from a county jail within 30 days."

"ADOC received the court transcripts for Kennedy's sentence on May 10," Horton wrote Lagniappe. "He will be transferred from the Mobile County Jail to the Alabama Department of Corrections by June 10."

Though a transfer date is set, the new charges could possibly extend Kennedy's stay in Mobile. He was in District Judge George N. Hardesty Jr.'s courtroom May 26 for an initial appearance on his indecent exposure charge.

Hardesty did not grant bond in this particular case on the basis that it would be superseded by the life sentence Circuit Judge Charles A. Graddick imposed on Kennedy earlier this month. A trial date on the new charge was also set for June 16 in Mobile District Court.

Despite appealing his 2013 conviction because he was prevented from acting as his own attorney, Kennedy asked the court to appoint a public defender to assist with his most recent charge.

Local defense attorney Jason Darley, who served as assistant counsel in Kennedy's previous cases, was also selected to represent him during whatever court actions come from his newest charge.

Though a misdemeanor conviction couldn't possibly add to a life sentence, it would be up to the Mobile County District Attorney's office to drop the charges against Kennedy. If they don't, the trial will proceed like any other.

It's possible the newest charges against Kennedy could be brought up in an appeal of his second conviction, which he has a legal right to file through June 9, although state court records as of May 31 show no attempts to do so.



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Navy dismisses captain over relationship with Austal exec

BY JASON JOHNSON/REPORTER | jason@lagniappemobile.com

Internal reports from a 2012 U.S. Navy investigation unsealed in March detail the decisions that led a naval officer over the Littoral Combat Ship program to be relieved of his duty just days after a personal relationship with an executive assistant at Austal USA was discovered.

Though the report from the Naval Sea Systems Command inspector general is redacted, Lagniappe was able to determine the identities of some of those involved from news releases issued by the Navy, descriptions contained within the report itself and other publicly available information.

The investigation centered on Capt. Jeffrey Riedel, who the Navy concluded held a “close personal, and potentially intimate, relationship” with Elizabeth Loving — the executive assistant to former Austal President Joe Rella.

According to the Navy, that relationship “created the appearance of impropriety” because Riedel was tasked with overseeing the LCS program, which is worth billions to Austal.

The events covered in the report took place in January 2012, when Riedel was in Mobile for the christening of a new vessel and other events related to the LCS program.

In her comments to the Navy, Loving claimed it was Rella who encouraged her to get close to Riedel — a claim Rella denied throughout the report.

“He was like, ‘We need to get on his good side. We need to be his friend.’ He’s like, ‘We are in a lot of trouble here. We’ve got a lot going on,’” Loving said of her conversations with Rella. “[He said] ‘Book yourself into the hotel. Take every opportunity. Go for drinks. Go for dinner.’”

Loving claimed Rella had specifically asked her to get photos of Riedel in a compromising situation, but told investigators all of her correspondence with Rella related to that directive was handled verbally.

The report itself “did not uncover any evidence to support this allegation,” but regardless of the motivation, both Riedel and Loving admitted Loving soon began “throwing” herself at the visiting Navy captain both in person and in hundreds of text messages and emails.

“If you look at it, you’re going to know I threw myself at him, like, bad. Bad,” Loving said in an telephone interview with Navy investigators. “I mean, if he said, if he would say something to me like, ‘It’s a sunny day,’ I would turn it into something very sexual.”

One night at Veet’s, Riedel and Loving exchanged phone numbers, and according to the Navy, records on Riedel’s government-issued phone showed 579 text messages were exchanged with Loving by the time he returned to Mobile for an LCS program review two weeks later.

Riedel and Loving both told investigators it was an accident they wound up sharing a Daphne hotel room on Jan. 24, 2012, though some interviewed in the report claimed Loving had previously discussed a plan to stay with him during his return to Mobile.

“We didn’t have sex,” Loving told investigators. “I’m not saying that he didn’t flirt back. I didn’t say he wasn’t giddy — I’m not saying that. I’m just saying I did not have sex with the man.”

Based on his comments to investigators,

Riedel had agreed to eat dinner with Loving at Joey’s North Shore Grill in Gulf Shores that night because she had helped arrange his hotel accommodations, though by Loving’s own statements she became purposefully intoxicated.

To keep Loving from driving under the influence of alcohol, the report says, Riedel offered her one of the two beds in his room, something he would later call a “huge mistake.”

“I made a very bad error in judgment in allowing [redacted] to spend the night in my room. It was done solely out of the intention for her not to drive drunk,” Riedel said. “Nothing happened between the two of us.”

However, based on their statements, Riedel and Loving shared a drink at the same hotel the following night as well, though Loving claimed to have stayed in a separate room with another “friend” not identified in the report.

Other interviews conducted by the Navy show Austal’s management was beginning to get suspicious of the relationship around the same time. While there were rumors of what was going on, statements from Austal’s human resources employees detailed attempts to get more proof before bringing the issue to the Navy’s attention.

During the same week Riedel was visiting Mobile, Austal employees made an effort to catch him and Loving together after hours — efforts that proved fruitful when their cars were spotted in the parking lot of the Fairfield Inn in Spanish Fort on more than one occasion.

“It’s an inappropriate relationship whether they were sleeping together or not,” Rella told investigators. “The fact that there’s a social familial relationship, where going out in public where people might see my [executive assistant] together with the program manager of a multibillion-dollar program is concerning. People could accuse me of dispatching her to do that.”

Two days after Loving and Riedel shared a hotel room in Daphne, Austal’s management confronted Loving. By the end of the week, she had signed a separation agreement with the company, though she maintained throughout the investigation the entire ordeal was a “dog and pony show” disguising Rella’s plan to “get rid” of her.

“It started coming together as a whole. You know what? He’s getting rid of me,” she said. “I know so much, beyond the girlfriend, beyond the numbers, beyond the false reports, beyond, beyond, beyond, beyond. There’s so much I know, and how better to get rid of me and a [program manager] you hate? How much easier is that, really?”

When the Navy was made aware of the situation days later, an investigation was launched and though “there were concerns that sensitive procurement information may have been compromised,” the report said no evidence suggests (Riedel) used his position to influence any contract decisions.

Riedel was relieved of his position three days after the events described in this report and has since retired from the Navy. Rella resigned as Austal’s president four months after the investigation began and has since started an unrelated company in Bay Minette.

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Expungement law concerns sent to legislative committee

BY ERIC MANN/REPORTER | eric@lagniappemobile.com

Alabama's 2014 law allowing citizens to apply for the expungement of certain court records and criminalizing publication of those records could go before the House Judiciary Committee in the state's next regular legislative session, according to one of the longest-tenured members of the Mobile delegation.

Rep. Victor Gaston forwarded Lagniappe's concerns about the law to the committee after he became aware of issues related to the law after Lagniappe co-publisher Rob Holbert voiced concerns to legislators in April. Among those concerns are that the law's criminalization component represents an unconstitutional prior restraint on freedom of speech.

"I don't know whether the law is unconstitutional or constitutional, that's up to the courts to decide, but I do think Lagniappe's points are well made," Gaston said.

Gaston said the House Judiciary Committee is active and competent, with representatives from both political parties. He stressed the recommendation does not guarantee the committee will investigate and said it could take "a long, long time" before it is considered.

"They consider every bill that is introduced and assigned to it," Gaston said. "They look at the bills one at a time. They have a lot of work and don't just sit down and start talking about everything right away."

Currently the law has led to one online investigative reporter being arrested and charged with a Class B misdemeanor, as well as another charge against him that led the reporter to flee the state. Also, to date Lagniappe's requests for the state's expungement data have been denied.

On April 1, Lagniappe submitted a public records request to the Administrative Office of Courts seeking expungement data the office is required by law to provide to the Legislature. Lagniappe's request was denied when the AOC said it was unable to track the data in its state judicial information system program. The office offered to provide the total number of expungements granted since the law passed, but that request would have cost Lagniappe \$500 for labor. AOC justified this as the cost of having people research

the information they are already required by law to have.

AOC suggested the data may be available through the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, so on May 16 Lagniappe requested that data from ALEA.

On May 25, ALEA general counsel Michael W. Robinson denied the request, saying the agency is not required by law to track expungement statistics and does not have a system in place that tracks the information.

"It would be an undue, unnecessary and expensive burden on our agency to create a program to do this task," Robinson's letter said.

Lagniappe requested the records in order to accurately report on the expungement law. In March, investigative journalist John Caylor became the first known person in the state to be arrested on the misdemeanor charge of publishing the expunged court record of federal court clerk Thomas Scott Smith III, who had his 2001 arrest for unlawful possession of a controlled substance expunged after the state's law passed in 2014.

Smith III's attorney, Thomas Smith Jr., said the publication of the records on Caylor's website represented a violation of his client's privacy. The attorney, Smith III's father, filed a civil complaint against Caylor in Baldwin County court but has since amended it to a defamation and invasion of privacy lawsuit against Caylor and insider-magazine.com.

"Caylor's harm goes beyond the unlawful publishing of the expunged records due to the way he maliciously used them and his outrageous lies," Smith Jr. said.

At a hearing May 3, Caylor said he agreed to take the information off the website until it could be determined whether Alabama's law is constitutional and does not create an illegal prior restraint by the government. Caylor claimed he worked all night after the hearing to have the records removed from his website. However, despite removing the materials from the site by mid-morning, Smith III filed another complaint and Daphne Municipal Judge Michael Hoyt issued a warrant for his arrest. Hoyt declined to be interviewed, saying he does not comment publicly on pending cases.

Smith Jr. disputed Caylor's version of exactly when the records

were removed from the website. According to the attorney, Hoyt's order included a condition that Caylor not republish the records.

There was no time limit set on the order, because the attorney said the records had been removed prior to the May 3 hearing. Smith Jr. said the records were republished on the site the morning after the hearing, at which time he decided to seek a second charge and the warrant was issued.

"I am sure the records had been removed from the website prior to the hearing because on April 28 my office received a telephone call by a person identifying himself as John Caylor stating he wanted to leave a message for me that Scott's records had been removed from the website," the attorney said. "We immediately confirmed they were no longer on the website and did so again several other times, including the morning of May 3. On the morning of May 4 I was notified that the records were again being published on Caylor's website, which I confirmed myself."

Caylor was to turn himself over to police the following day, but told Lagniappe he fled the state for fear for his safety if he is jailed in Alabama. At press deadline, Caylor remains a fugitive.

Before and after the hearing, Caylor said he received phone calls from a U.S. Marshal named Josh Devine asking him to remove Smith's expunged records as well as records related to U.S. District Court Judge Ginny Granade from his website. Smith III serves as a clerk for Grenade. According to Caylor the calls from Devine stopped after he provided recordings of a person identifying himself as "Josh" pressuring him to remove the records and to turn himself in to Daphne authorities. Lagniappe published a report about the recording and the federal marshal's alleged involvement in a state misdemeanor case.

The Marshals Service Mobile office has not responded to multiple requests for comment since May about its involvement in Caylor's case. When Devine was contacted directly about any possible involvement, he told the reporter to contact the service's public information office. The marshals are sworn to protect 94 federal court districts and approximately 2,200 federal judges. The marshals are also responsible for the protection of federal prosecutors, federal public defenders and other court employees.

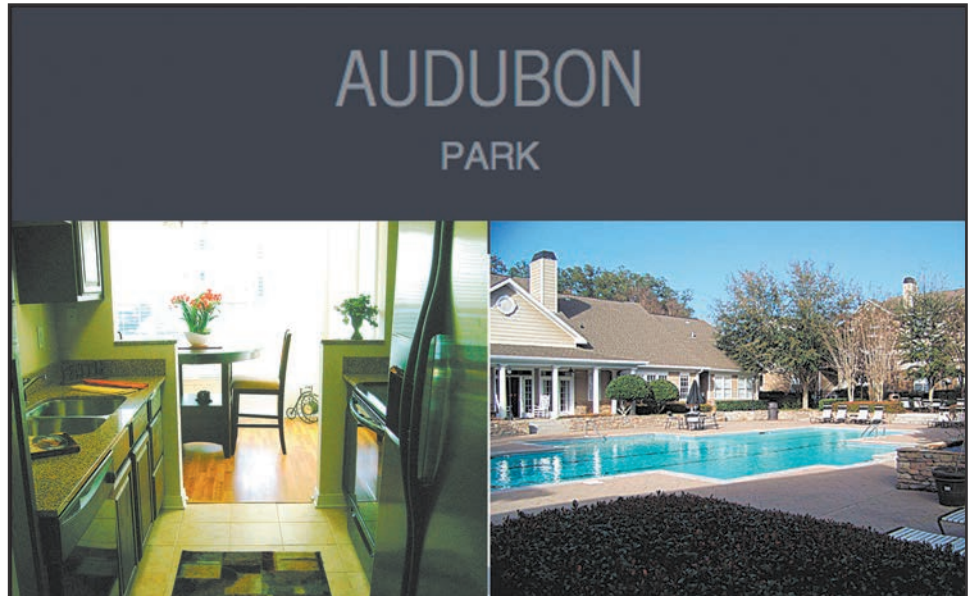


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City still without confirmed fire chief

BY DALE LIESCH/REPORTER | dale@lagniappemobile.com



Photo | Lagniappe

ASSISTANT MFRD CHIEF BILLY PAPPAS (WHITE SHIRT) POSES WITH MAYOR SANDY STIMPSON AND FOUR EMPLOYEES PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN LAST SUMMER.

Mobile has been without an official fire chief for more than two years and there has been no recent discussion about promoting the man currently doing the job.

Mayor Sandy Stimpson initially appointed Randy Smith in November 2013 to helm the department, but rescinded the appointment in September 2014. Smith was never confirmed by the Mobile City Council.

Since the change of course, Assistant Chief Billy Pappas has assumed responsibility for leading the department. Pappas' name has never appeared on the council agenda.

Council President Gina Gregory said placement of Pappas' name on the agenda would be up to Stimpson.

"It has not been placed on our agenda," Gregory wrote in an email. "It would be something the mayor would do."

Stimpson commended Pappas and other Mobile Fire-Rescue Department leaders during last week's State of the City address, but before Tuesday's council meeting said Pappas would not be nominated for confirmation.

"I've chosen not to put him up because I don't know if the votes are there," Stimpson said.

Councilwoman Bess Rich, chairwoman of the council's Public Safety Committee, said she would support Pappas if he moved to Mobile. City spokesman George Talbot confirmed Pappas lives on the Eastern Shore.

Rich said having an acting chief is not the same as having a confirmed chief.

"I believe the criteria of having the safest city includes the fire department," she said, apparently taking a dig at one of Stimpson's campaign priorities.

Councilman Fred Richardson said he has "no problem" with Pappas, but said he wouldn't discuss confirming the assistant chief or anyone else until the name appeared on a

council agenda.

"I'll have to evaluate it once he puts his name up there," Richardson said, referring to the mayor. "I'm not saying anything until then."

Richardson also said he was unsure why the position has remained vacant for so long.

"Only the mayor knows why he has not recommended a chief," he said. "The administration will act. I think he knows why he left this position vacant."

Councilman John Williams said he doesn't care one way or the other if a chief is in place, as long as the department is running smoothly. He added Pappas has done an admirable job in the interim.

"I have never opposed any of the mayor's appointments," Williams said. "I don't foresee that happening now."

But according to local firefighter union president Dwayne Patrick, the situation is unfair to Pappas, who is doing the job as chief without the pay increase that would accompany a promotion.

"It's not fair to him to take the responsibility of the role and not be compensated," Patrick said. As assistant chief, Pappas earns a salary of more than \$106,000 per year.

But Patrick said Stimpson's delay is hurting morale around the department.

"We need someone in that position to run the department," he said. "We need a head figure. If you're not going to fill the position, get rid of it."

There was speculation by at least one councilor back in the summer of 2014 that Smith didn't have the support needed to gain confirmation through a City Council vote. At the time, Williams called that a "shame" because Smith was "immensely qualified."

Smith filed a suit against the city claiming reverse discrimination in 2006. Richardson was subpoenaed to testify as part of the lawsuit before it was settled.

School closings draw ire of black communities

BY JASON JOHNSON/REPORTER | jason@lagniappemobile.com

Just two days after the Mobile County School Board voted 4-to-1 to close Mae Eanes Middle School and move its students to Williamson High School, one of the board members drew hundreds to a community meeting protesting the controversial consolidation.

On May 24, school officials finalized what critics have called “an orchestrated plan” to close Mae Eanes. The decision was recently included in the \$2.5 million school improvement plan aimed at addressing the system’s 12 failing schools, including Eanes and Williamson.

Next year students who would have been sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at Eanes will join high school-aged students at Williamson. Though those students will be housed in a separate wing known as the Williamson Middle Grades Preparatory Academy, many parents — including several who spoke at last Thursday’s meeting — are concerned about the wide range of ages at the combined school.

Commissioner Robert Battles was the only board member who opposed combining Mae Eanes and Williamson, and seemed to quickly chalk up the decision up to “racism” on the

Despite those and other threats of litigation, Battles gave no indication as to how those who oppose the schools’ merger might move their efforts forward.

“There is a plan, but I didn’t come here tonight to let them know what my plan is,” Battles told the crowd. “I can’t stop a process that’s in transition, but what I can say is, the people have a right to any kind of government that they deserve.”

Prior to Thursday’s meeting at Mae Eanes, there were talks in the community of pushing for a city school system in Mobile, with many citing the recent independence from MCPSS in Saraland, Satsuma and Chickasaw. However, there was no talk of moving those efforts forward when Battles took the mic at Mae Eanes.

Any effort to start a system would also require support from Mobile City Council members — none of whom attended the meeting at Mae Eanes last Thursday. On social media, some specifically targeted Councilman Fred Richardson, who was in a previously scheduled community meeting at the time Battles and his supporters gathered at Mae Eanes.

While the news of the closing is fresh, the issues at Mae Eanes have bubbled under the surface for more than a year, after plans to use \$7 million to renovate the middle school were shelved in favor of other projects at Citronelle High School, Fournier-Chastang School, Murphy High School and the vacant Barton Academy.

Murphy, which according to state records has two times more black students than white students, became a priority after a tornado struck the campus on Christmas Day in 2012 — something Battles said even he would have supported at the time.

“Murphy had a devastating tornado. Well, you know, if I was a commissioner then, I would have voted to help Murphy too,” he said. “I wouldn’t [have] even minded lending them \$4 million, but give me my money back, though.”

Since the controversy of the “diverted funds” began, MCPSS released a breakdown of its construction allocations over the past 16 years for each of the school board’s five districts.

With \$131.5 million put toward construction projects since the year 2000, Battles’ District 3 schools are the second most funded on the list, just behind the \$150 million put into District 4, which is overseen by Commissioner Reginald Crenshaw. Those that received the least funding for construction in the same period are the districts of commissioners Don Stringfellow, William Foster and Douglas Harwell, which have received \$57 million, \$89 million and \$125 million, respectively.

Others, including Battles, have suggested Mae Eanes was closed so the property could be sold to Airbus, though school officials said there is no truth to those rumors. Peek was not immediately available to comment by press deadline.

“NEXT YEAR STUDENTS WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN SIXTH-, SEVENTH- AND EIGHTH-GRADERS AT EANES WILL JOIN HIGH SCHOOL-AGED STUDENTS AT WILLIAMSON.”

part of his fellow board members and Mobile County Public School System Superintendent Martha Peek.

Though the mood was tense on Thursday, Battles said “raising hell” was not the way to proceed.

“The purpose of this is for you, as citizens, families and community members, to offer input on the direction that we should go,” he said. “What I’d like to do tonight is to facilitate your participation and try to make a revolutionary change in the process of education.”

Battles previously threatened to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education over what he described as “racial disparities” between majority-white schools and majority-black schools, the latter of which have seen recent closings and consolidations.

“African-Americans in this system — because of their race — are being disproportionately impacted by closing schools, and they’ve been denied participation in programs and school activities related to federal funding,” Battles said after the May 24 vote to close Mae Eanes.



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Fly Creek protection remains a concern for some

BY ERIC MANN/REPORTER | eric@lagniappemobile.com

While plans for the construction of an apartment complex along Fly Creek are in motion, the preservation and protection of the creek remains a priority for a handful of environmentalists, attorneys and even U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne.

Last week during debate on the U.S. House of Representatives floor, Byrne — a Fairhope resident — encouraged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize local projects such as the dredging of Mobile and Baldwin waterways like Fly Creek, Dog River and Fowl River. Byrne said the waterways play a critical role in tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, and shipbuilding in coastal Alabama.

Byrne said Fly Creek needs to be dredged to repair damages it suffered during historic flooding in Mobile and Baldwin counties in April 2014. Byrne said he has heard numerous complaints about sediment levels in the creek.

“I hear from people all the time who are experiencing issues related to the depths at Fly Creek,” Byrne said. “I understand that the Army Corps of Engineers has limited resources, so I continue working with them to make clear that this project needs to be a top priority. We made the similar argument with Perdido Pass down at the beach and were able to get that project taken care of. Hopefully, by keeping the pressure on the Army Corps, we can get the issues with Fly Creek resolved as well.”

According to Byrne, smaller projects like the dredging of Fly Creek are often overlooked when listed among larger projects with a broader reach. However, waterways like Fly Creek are vital to the coastal economy.

“While they may not include a major waterway, these projects are vital to many of our local communities and have a significant economic impact from commercial and recreational fishing, as well as tourism in general,” Byrne said.

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program anticipates federal funding from the RESTORE Act to complete its proposed Fly Creek Watershed Management Plan. Tom Herder from Mobile

Bay NEP said he expects funding for the project to be released sometime this year.

“The Fly Creek watershed assessment is on the RESTORE project list,” Herder said. “As soon as the money comes down, we will get moving on it.”

The Fly Creek Watershed Management Plan will likely be combined with similar projects at Yancey Branch and Gum Creek for an estimated \$250,000, according to Herder, who said other RESTORE funds will be used to fund an invasive-species study at Three Mile Creek, among other projects.

Previously, Mobile Bay NEP secured money to work on seven watershed management plans with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in accordance with the terms of two plea agreements in criminal cases against BP and Transocean following the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill in 2010.

Fly Creek is one of the smaller watersheds studied by MBNEP at just 29 to 30 square miles. By comparison, the Dog River Watershed is roughly 100 square miles.

Herder said the management plans are comprehensive and analyze the watershed’s climate, geology, soils, streamflow and health, and topography. The plan will also provide an analysis of problems in the watershed and a cost analysis for addressing those issues. Without going into great detail, Herder acknowledged MBNEP is aware of reports of damage to Fly Creek related to development throughout the years.

“Anything that we can study scientifically is in these plans,” Herder said. “We expect to be able to document whatever is wrong in Fly Creek and we expect to be able to make recommendations on how to fix those problems. These management plans are incredibly comprehensive.”

According to Herder, Mobile Bay NEP attempted to perform a sediment analysis at Fly Creek a few years ago but was unable to secure necessary access on private property along the creek.

“There were a few property owners along the creek who would not let us onto their property,” Herder said. “Because of that, we

were unable to secure the proper access and we could not complete the sediment analysis. We hope that when the RESTORE money comes down, we can get the proper access to look at sediment in the creek.”

Meanwhile, attorney Adam Milam has filed an amended complaint against the city of Fairhope, Fairhope City Council, Fairhope Planning Commission, property owner Angelo A. Corte and developer Leaf River Group LLC to stop the planned construction of the Retreat at Fairhope Village apartment development near the creek.

In April, Milam filed a complaint alleging the Fairhope City Council’s April 11 approval of a change to the Fly Creek PUD to allow the development will adversely affect and damage the creek. Milam represents Friends of Fly Creek LLC, an Alabama limited liability corporation with the stated goal of protecting and preserving Fly Creek. Four Fairhope residents — Laura Ann and Chip Shaw and Riley and Mitsy Murphy — live downstream from the development and make up the Friends of Fly Creek group.

The amended complaint cites Fairhope’s Comprehensive Plan, as well as the city’s red soil and land disturbance ordinances, as examples of city regulations that should render the apartment development’s construction illegal. The complaint also cites the city’s 2013 Fly Creek Watershed Restoration Project and Fairhope’s 2015 low-impact development ordinance as further reasons the apartments should not be built.

The complaint seeks to have the court declare the city’s ordinance allowing the development’s construction to be rendered null and void in order to protect Fly Creek. It also seeks unspecified compensatory damages for the plaintiffs from the city of Fairhope.

“All that has happened is we are building our case and [filed] an amended complaint alleging substantive causes of action,” Milam said. “We look forward to bringing to light the illegal and wrongful nature of the process involved in the city approving this amended PUD.”

Milam said there will be a hearing on the complaint June 9.

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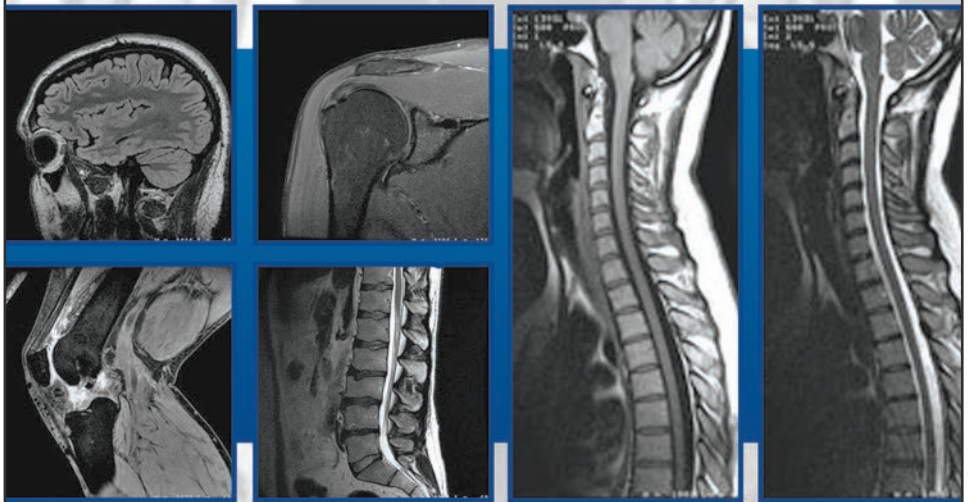
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Groups continue to spar over Midtown Publix

BY DALE LIESCH/REPORTER | dale@lagniappemobile.com



A 3.23-ACRE PARCEL OWNED BY FRED AND KRIS HAYEK AT THE INTERSECTION OF GREENO ROAD AND COUNTY ROAD 104 IN FAIRHOPE HAS BEEN REZONED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

After multiple meetings and three revisions to site plans, the developer of a proposed shopping center and a Midtown advocacy group are still far apart on plans for the former Augusta Evans School property.

At issue now, just a day ahead of a Planning Commission public hearing on the development that would be anchored by a Publix, is the placement of the center's outparcel buildings and the amount of parking.

Casey Pipes, an attorney for developer John Argo and MAB American Management, said plans have already been changed to reflect neighbors' concerns. For instance, he said, an outparcel some had compared to a strip mall has been broken up into three smaller buildings, which are in line with a village concept; another outparcel has been made smaller; and another outparcel has been moved farther south and closer to Florida Street. Pipes said changes were also made to hide more of the parking lot from street view. These changes included shifting the orientation of one of the outparcels to face Old Shell Road and "break up the big parking lot feel," he said.

The most recent plan submitted to the city's planning department includes parallel on-street parking as well.

"We left a lot more landscaped area along the north end of the site," Pipes said.

Green space on the site was increased to 26 percent from 22 percent in the original drawings. The city only requires 12 percent green space for a retail development, Pipes said.

Ashley Dukes, president of the Midtown Mobile Movement, said MAB American Management has only made small changes and has avoided the "essential, crucial changes" neighbors have called for.

"We've heard a lot of talk from the developer, but haven't seen a whole lot of action," she said.

Dukes said the developer could do more to move outparcels closer to the street and away from residential areas nearby. One outparcel in

the plans can't be moved because of utilities, and Dukes says she understands that. She said the parking lot in front of that particular building could be removed and possibly replaced with a wider sidewalk, or more green space.

"Our goal is to make things as pedestrian- and bike-friendly as possible," Dukes said.

One way to make the development more pedestrian- and bike-friendly would be to move all of the proposed shops in the plan closer to Florida Street or Old Shell Road, with a shared parking lot behind them. The current plans call for separate parking lots, which Dukes said is a suburban style that has become common over the past 50 years but is increasingly falling out of favor.

Dukes said Midtown Mobile Movement's suggestions fall in line with Map for Mobile, while the developer's plan does not. She added the suggestions are similar to what other communities nationwide are seeing in terms of development.

"We just want what's best for Mobile and Midtown," she said. "Once it's built it will take 40 years to change it. As long as we can get the buildings in the right place we can get that streetscape that's attractive ..."

Jon Gray, a spokesman for the developer, said the plan already calls for hundreds of linear feet of sidewalks of varying widths.

Dukes suggested moving the three outparcel village concept west to the other side of the development, along Florida Street and farther away from residential areas.

"If they moved up the buildings they would be farther away from people's backyards," she said. "We want to see them move up as many of the buildings as possible."

Gray said while Map for Mobile is a great plan, there are currently no ordinances on the books to back it up.

The Mobile Planning Commission will host a public hearing on the development at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 2, in the multi-purpose room of Government Plaza.



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North Greeno Road commercial rezoning granted

BY ERIC MANN/REPORTER | eric@lagniappemobile.com

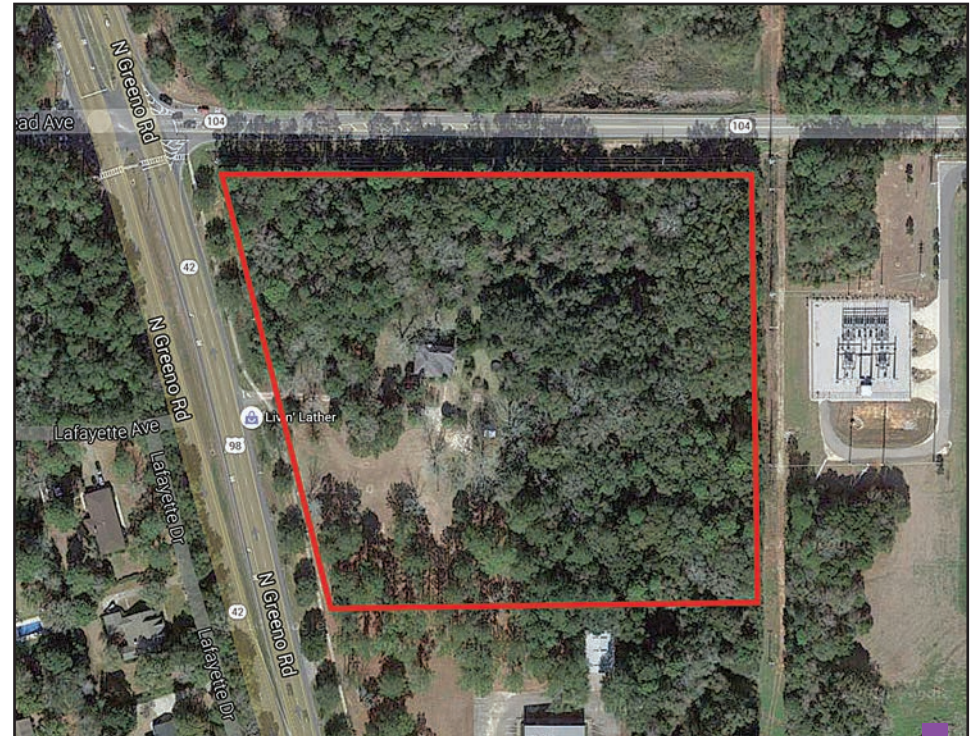


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A 3.23 ACRE PARCEL OWNED BY FRED AND KRIS HAYEK AT THE CORNER OF GREENO ROAD AND COUNTY ROAD 104 IN FAIRHOPE WAS RECENTLY REZONED FOR COMMERCIAL USE.

The northern entrance to the city of Fairhope will soon be commercialized after the Fairhope City Council approved a request from a property owner seeking to rezone 3.23 acres on North Greeno Road to a Planned Unit Development (PUD) to allow for the development of 27,000 square feet of commercial space with four 35-foot-high buildings and 111 parking spaces on the parcel.

The property, owned by Fred and Kris Hayek, is located on the east side of Greeno Road just north of Volanta Park. The property is currently the site of a single-family residence built in the 1970s. At the council's previous meeting in May, one resident who lives in the nearby Colonial Acres neighborhood expressed concern that the rezoning would open the door to further commercialization of the area, but no one spoke in opposition at the May 27 meeting.

The proposal received a favorable recommendation from the Fairhope Planning Commission last November. In April, councilors pulled the request from a meeting agenda and asked the applicants to agree to stipulations to ensure the development would not invite fast-food-style restaurants or a gas station.

In support, Mobile-area architect Louis Tooker sent a letter to the City Council which Council President Jack Burrell read aloud. In the letter, Tooker said he has worked with Fairhope officials and the Hayek family to come to an agreement about the property.

Tooker cited the county's rapid growth and said Fairhope has been a major driver of that

growth. He said Fairhope is a desirable place to live, and the city's population has more than doubled in the last 25 years, but this growth has made the Hayek property an undesirable place for a residential zoning designation.

"Growth is not a bad thing, but it is not without consequences," Tooker wrote. "One consequence has been the impact of that growth on Greeno Road. Twenty-five years ago, when Fred Hayek purchased his home on Greeno Road, the state was just beginning to make the road two lanes. Now the road is four lanes, with accelerate and decelerate lanes and turn lanes on either side."

Tooker's letter suggested the growth in traffic and widening of Greeno Road made Hayek's property unlivable.

"I was unable to determine the traffic volume on the road in 1991, but you can be certain it was significantly lower than the current volume of more than 22,000 cars per day at the average maximum speed exceeding 50 miles per hour," Tooker wrote. "The increased traffic near his home has made it unsuitable for a residential zoning. Individuals like Mr. Hayek have been trapped by the changes which they could scarcely have predicted and over which they had no control."

The request was approved with a 3-0 vote, with Burrell, Councilman Kevin Boone and Councilwoman Diana Brewer in favor. Councilors Rich Mueller and Mike Ford were not present at the meeting, which had been rescheduled because the council did not have a quorum at the regularly scheduled date of May 23.

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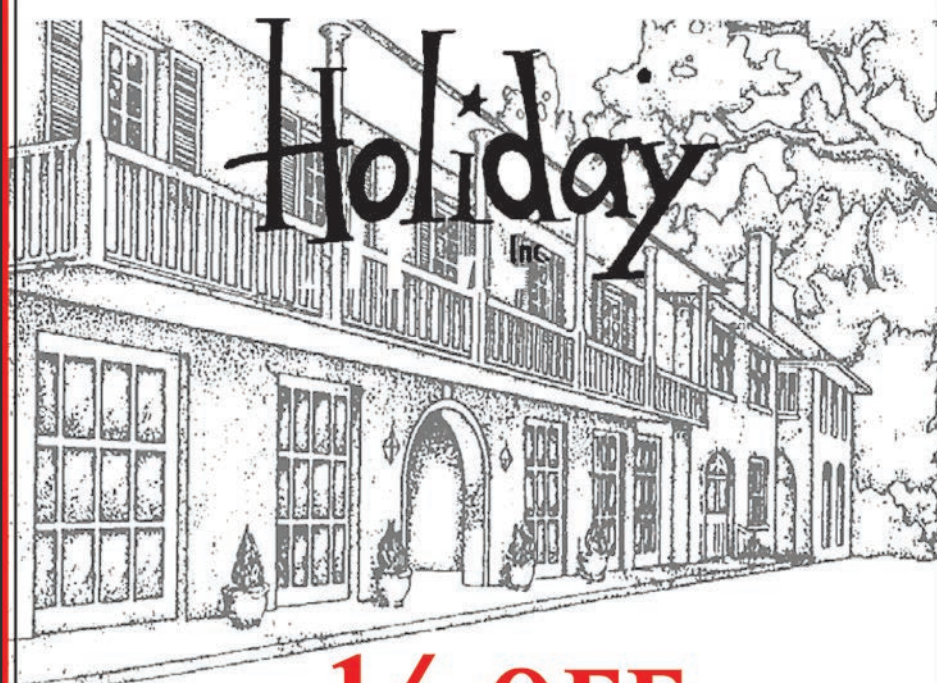
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Complex soccer decision looms for Ludgood

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

It must be tough being County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood these days. Right now the practically mute commissioner has the entire weight of the decision whether or not to fund the “Connieville” soccer complex/natatorium resting upon her shoulders.

Maybe that’s a great position of power for her, or maybe she’s had to block fellow commish Connie Hudson’s phone number. We wouldn’t know because she almost never talks to the media. But now that Hudson finally revealed funding plans, Ludgood is left as the deciding vote on the three-person board that will either give a thumbs up or a thumbs down to this massive project July 5.

We already know Commission President Jerry Carl will give it the Upside Down Fonzie. He’s very publicly questioned the wisdom of spending an estimated \$40 million total for the project. Just the first phase will land at over \$20 million, with plenty more to come. Carl thinks there are cheaper options for providing adequate soccer facilities around the county.

Hudson has poured her political blood into this project and it has become a rather quixotic mission for her to see it materialize in the swamps near the conjunction of interstates 10 and 65.

Her unseemly efforts to have Carl replaced in this election cycle by political crony Margie Wilcox was the manifestation of a longshot hope to be rid of the one person who consistently voiced opposition to her grand plan. Hudson burned a lot of political capital in that effort. But despite going as far as campaigning door-to-door and standing on the side of the road waving at motorists to defeat someone she would likely have to work with another four years, it fell flat, leaving Hudson leaning on Ludgood to make her field of dreams a reality.

The soccer complex looms larger as Hudson flails harder and harder while painting herself into a corner on this deal. It seems like almost every decision from the county has the shadow of the complex fall across it. Hudson, who was thin-skinned even in her naïve, fresh-from-the-political-womb City Council days, has become a full-on momma bear when her soccer complex cub is even perceived to be threatened.

I know we’re not the only members of the local media who either get a call or a note from Connie or county spokesperson Nancy Johnson any time the complex is focused upon. Johnson let me know that despite several offers to have Hudson come meet with our editorial board and explain her vision and answer questions we might have, Madame Commissioner would not be speaking to Lagniappe because we are “unfair” regarding her pet project.

It’s Hudson’s prerogative whether or not to speak with the local newspaper about the most expensive project currently on the books, but it does take a certain amount of chutzpah to have her minions call and complain about stories when they absolutely can’t be bothered for weeks to answer simple questions, such as who actually owns the land the county is about to buy for 3 million smackeroos.

I will say at this point I’m not personally terribly supportive of this project, simply because Connie has treated it like she’s asking for \$25,000 for a statue of herself at the Con-

nie Hudson Senior Center. She rolled out an economic impact study conducted by a group that looks to have skin in the game should the complex come to fruition and has been totally uninterested in discussing fine details such as how we can be sure soccer tournaments will actually choose Mobile over the formidable competition, or detailing how usage will be split between tournaments and local leagues.

There’s also been an attempt to have \$40 million of BP funding dedicated for this complex, something I believe would be a gross distortion of what that money should go for.

The questions as to how the site was selected and why some owners are getting roughly \$10,000 more per acre than others is another still sitting out there, but Hudson doesn’t want to talk about that. Instead, this past week she sauntered into the commission meeting and delivered a plan to fund the first phase of the project with a \$20 million bond issue paid for by redirecting \$1 million a year in lodging tax revenues.

That proposal was met with raspberries all around from county workers and the Mobile Area Lodging Association, whose spokesman said Hudson hadn’t even bothered to talk with them directly about this plan. As the MALA is already unhappy with the way lodging tax dollars are being spent, it’s unlikely they’ll be on Connie’s bandwagon.

Then there’s the matter of District Attorney Ashley Rich having repeatedly won suits against the county that will mean millions more per year to going to fund her office. Con-

nie and Merceria both continue fighting that losing battle, wasting more and more money on lawyers in a fight they aren’t going to win.

Who knows what Ludgood will ultimately decide. I’m sure she’s been able to get anything she wants out of Hudson for a while now, but the rubber is about to meet the road. The idea of a successful Connie Hudson Soccer and Swimming Complex is no doubt intoxicating. You can almost taste that sweet soccer tournament money flowing in.

But then there’s the downside.

The marketability study suggests within four years the county could be seeing \$11 million in additional tax revenue annually if the complex is built. And politically the reality is as long as it at least covers that \$1 million a year nut, the ramifications won’t cripple any future plans for Congress, the mayor’s office or queen of lower Alabama.

But so many of the projects we’ve taken on over the past 20 years still struggle. Hank Aaron Stadium suffers from chronic EBS (empty bleachers syndrome), the cruise ship terminal has certainly seen rough seas and we’re still waiting to see if GulfQuest’s first-year attendance figures match expectations. These are all good-to-great projects worthy of support, but marketing studies have a way of being wrong sometimes, and being wrong on a \$20 million or \$40 million project would be a big strain on county funds.

Let’s just hope when Ludgood does finally speak, she’ll make a decision that’s well considered and not politically expedient.

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Taking a vacation from being human

BY ASHLEY TRICE/EDITOR | ashleytoland@lagniappemobile.com

As I sat out on the west end of Dauphin Island last weekend, celebrating the Memorial Day holiday, a feeling of immense gratitude swept over me.

Gratitude for all who served, allowing me and countless others to live freely in the greatest country in the world. And I still say that with great sincerity even during this sometimes horrifying election year that makes me doubt it for a second — but despite all of that craziness, it still is.

Gratitude for being able to spend time with family and great friends.

Gratitude for living on the Gulf Coast, where I can jump in my car and be near any number of bays or beaches in an hour or two, and that my kids get to grow up enjoying life on these beautiful waters.

For the five to six hours we were “at sea,” pleas to play Minecraft or watch the Hobby Kids TV channel on YouTube (don’t ask, just know it’s horrible) by my son were replaced with hours of hermit crab collecting with his buddy, while my daughter played in the sand and splashed around in the water, occasionally adding another crabby to their collection. (Note: no hermit crabs were harmed in the making of these memories; all were released.)

And gratitude I didn’t feel the need to check my own Twitter and Facebook feeds for a few glorious hours. It brought me back to a much simpler time, the time of my youth — before internet (B.I.), when you didn’t have to read passive-aggressive “Vaguebook” posts about what “some people” — assumingly horrible — are doing or have done, or have your own post hijacked by your great Aunt Edna who makes embarrassing comments or read about the last 900 things Donald Trump said or the latest on Hillary’s emails, and, most gloriously, I was grateful for having a few hours free of learning just how many disturbed people there are out in the world, and/or the products created for them.

And there are tons of them.

Here are just a few of the latest I’ve learned about thanks to the interwebs ... (enter this column at your own risk; you will not be able to unread this).

Oh meow!

For all of the cat lovers out there, there is now a way you can really love your cat. I mean REALLY love your kitty. It seems there is a Kickstarter campaign for a new product called Lickibrush.

According to the product’s site lickibrush.com, “Cats groom each other as a form of social bonding. There’s also evidence to suggest that cats view and treat their human captors as large cats. As a human, you’re left out of the intimate licking ritual. At best, you have a one-sided licking relationship with your cat. We have designed LICKI brush to bring you and your cat closer. By using LICKI with your cat on a regular basis, you’ll develop a more intimate and bonded relationship, much like a mama cat bonds with her young.”

Finally a way to make the “licking relationship” a two-way street ... with your cat! Yay!

No word yet on whether Human Hairball Remedy is also in the works but one can only hope. I look forward to seeing how many eyeballs are scratched out during this “bonding process” and if this is only a “gateway” for their “human captors” to use their real tongues. Either way, I would suggest limiting your feline’s

consumption of Puss N Boots before engaging in any intense licking sessions.

Puppy love

Not to be outdone by cat lovers “grooming” their cats, there is something for “dog people” as well. And it may be even freakier than making out with Fluffy.

There is a recently released documentary done by a British TV station detailing the lives of those who like to engage in “pup play.”

“‘Secret Life of the Human Pups’ is a sympathetic look at the world of pup play, a movement that grew out of the BDSM (Bondage Dominance Sadism Masochism) community and has exploded in the last 15 years as the internet made it easier to reach out to likeminded people,” according to an article in The Guardian about the documentary. It goes on to say these people “have an interest in dressing in leather, wear dog-like hoods, enjoy tactile interactions like stomach rubbing or ear tickling, play with toys, eat out of bowls and are often in a relationship with their human ‘handlers.’”

There are so many things I want to know but don’t want to know about this. What happens when there is an accident in the house? Do they prefer Frontline or Advantix for their flea treatments? Is spaying and neutering recommended (I sure hope so!)? And most importantly, can a sago palm be deadly to them (the other “news story” clogging up my feed these days)?

The GoatMan cometh

If domesticated animal living is not for you, no worries, you still have options. Last week, the Washington Post had a story on a man who chose to live as a goat for six days and grazed with a herd in the Swiss Alps. The “goatman,” Thomas Thwaites, wanted to “take a vacation from being human” and had special prosthetics made so he could “gallop” around on all fours with his fellow goats. Though he did eat grass, it was recommended he pressure-cook it before consuming it. (Sounds dee-lish. I’m sure his new goat friends were super jel.)

When asked if he thought he had formed a connection to his herd, he responded, “I think I made friends with a particular goat. We seemed to follow each other around as we grazed. There was a moment, though, where I looked up and saw I was in the middle of the herd, and everyone else had stopped chewing and was staring at me. It was like I’d inadvertently committed some sort of goat faux pas.”

Um, like dressing up as a fake goat and pressure-cooking grass? Is that the faux pas you are referring to? Just speculating.

I guess it’s hard to escape being ridiculed, no matter what kind of animal you are ... or even pretend to be. Life is hard.

Wow. Just wow.

I try to remind myself these “interesting people” have always existed, the internet just brings them to our attention. And hey, maybe I am being too hard on them. I might decide to “take a vacation from being human” myself and go back down to Dauphin Island this weekend and live as a hermit crab. My lounge chair will act as my prosthetic shell. I will eat crushed up Pringles and soggy sandwiches fed to me by visiting children. And I will pinch the hell out of anyone who doesn’t toss me a beer fast enough. Yeah, I think these people are onto something. Sign me up!

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Is it time to give the Libertarian Party a second look?

BY JEFF POOR/COLUMNIST | jeffreypoor@gmail.com

Over the weekend, former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson was nominated to be the Libertarian Party's presidential nominee at the party's convention in Orlando, Florida (because nothing says drug legalization and abolishing the Federal Reserve like Mouse Ears and Space Mountain).

This election cycle, voters are likely to give the Libertarian Party a second look amid recent calls — on both the Republican and Democratic sides — for a third option. Indeed it is an understatement to say there is some distaste for both the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, Donald Trump, and the likely Democratic presidential nominee, Hillary Clinton.

Recent polling shows Johnson faring better than any third-party effort at this stage in the game since Ross Perot's 1992 run, amassing double-digit percentages in two national polls where he is head-to-head against Clinton and Trump.

Should Johnson want to make the debate stage, he'll have to do a little bit better and get up to 15 percent of the vote nationally. But that's not completely out of reach for the Libertarians, given the vulnerabilities of the two major-party presidential candidates.

So with this need for a third candidate, is the Libertarian Party ready for prime time?

Johnson makes the case that the Libertarian Party embodies the best of the Republican and Democratic parties and is worthy of consideration this November.

"Well really, Libertarians kind of represent the best of both parties, at least what the parties are supposed to be about," Johnson said in an interview after winning the nomination. "Are Republicans supposed to be about small government? Aren't Democrats supposed to be about civil liberties — people being able to make choices in their own lives as long as those choices don't affect others?"

Johnson has some work to do to prove today's Libertarian Party isn't too far outside of the mainstream. For example, take the remarks of Austin Petersen, a candidate for the Libertarian Party nod, at the party convention's presidential debate:

"I believe in a world where gay married couples can defend their marijuana fields with submachine guns," Petersen said.

In our modern politics, the Libertarian effort has been nothing but an intellectual exercise. Petersen's statement demonstrates that.

It's great to be for letting your freak flag fly, but it seems to be devoid of acknowledgment that is just not how American society functions. There is a lot of interdependence within the United States, and for better or worse, the libertarian philosophy of governance doesn't necessarily allow for that.

For example, take the U.S. economy. Roughly 33 percent of

Take the last two presidential runs of former Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas). If Paul had been elected president, his first week in office would have been very ambitious. On Monday, he would have eliminated the Department of Energy. On Tuesday, the Federal Reserve would be no more. On Wednesday, all U.S. troops in foreign territories would be withdrawn. Thursday, the Department of Education would go. On Friday, since it was such a busy week, government funding for NPR would be eliminated before calling it weekend.

While many adored Paul for his rigid, principles-based governing philosophy, in practice it would have sent the country into immediate turmoil. It took 240 years for the country to get to this point. U.S. society can't immediately hit the reset button to go back to a purely Founding Fathers-ish system.

That is why the key for Libertarian Party is to preach incrementalism, but there's just no indication it is a party or movement that is willing to take the slow, methodical approach in politics.

For now, the Libertarians probably aren't the alternative to Trump and Hillary many are seeking. Mostly the problems with those two have more to do with questions about their character, as in Trump's temperament and Hillary's honesty and trustworthiness.

Johnson doesn't bring anything to the table that presents an in-demand alternative. A campaign that places marijuana legalization toward the top of its "to-do list" will not necessarily woo voters who desire candidates with better personality traits than the GOP and Democratic options.

The former New Mexico governor likely will get more attention than any other Libertarian Party nominee in recent history. But the answer is, no, he is not the one you were waiting for.

“FOR NOW, THE LIBERTARIANS PROBABLY AREN'T THE ALTERNATIVE TO TRUMP AND HILLARY MANY ARE SEEKING. MOSTLY THE PROBLEMS WITH THOSE TWO HAVE MORE TO DO WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR CHARACTER, AS IN TRUMP'S TEMPERAMENT AND HILLARY'S HONESTY AND TRUSTWORTHINESS.”

its gross domestic product, which is the value of all the finished goods and services produced within the country, consists of government spending. Libertarians would argue that's way too much and would look to immediately knock that down as much as possible. The theory is that spending is better done by private individuals than the government.

In practice, however, you likely need government to spend money on roads and bridges, military, law enforcement, delivering the mail, etc. You don't just need to better the bottom line of the GDP, you need all these things to make society function properly. Libertarian presidential candidates have struggled to find the right balance to win over a significant portion of the electorate.

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Alabama prisons and democratic values

BY KEN ROBINSON/CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One of the most insightful and illuminating treatises ever written about the United States and its democracy was penned by the Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville. Considered one of the brightest minds of the 19th century, Tocqueville's "Democracy in America" is ranked as one of the top must-read books for those studying or seeking to understand the fundamentals of American political life, and the nature and role of equality and individualism within our democratic system.

Yet the young French sociologist and political theorist, who was only in his mid-20s when he traveled to the U.S. in 1831, came ostensibly to cover not its political system, but the young nation's penal system. For around nine months he journeyed throughout the nation visiting prisons from Michigan to Louisiana. His travels even took him through Mobile.

"On the Penitentiary System in the United States and its Application to France" was quickly published by Tocqueville and his traveling companion, Gustave de Beaumont, after returning to France. The young French aristocrat had become concerned about this subject because during his time as an apprentice magistrate in the Versailles Court, he saw the woeful and destructive effects of an ill-conceived and managed penal system on broader society.

Tocqueville observed how France's penitentiary system basically reinforced and perpetuated criminality, and the prisons ended up being nothing more than "crime schools." It was a system marked by dysfunction and managerial laxness.

Tocqueville believed the health, vitality and continuity of a civil society, to a large degree, is impacted by the state of its penal system. A bad one can have bad effects for civil society. America's system, he felt, had much insight to offer his European homeland.

Flash forward 185 years. If Tocqueville were able to survey America's penal system today, I don't think he would have the same assessment.

Most today are aware of the woeful statistics. An article in the

Jan. 20, 2015, edition of The Economist titled "Jailhouse Nation" observes, "With less than 5 percent of the world's population, the United States holds roughly a quarter of its prisoners: more than 2.3 million people, including 1.6 million in state and federal prisons and over 700,000 in local jails and immigration pens. Per head, the incarceration rate in the land of the free has risen seven-fold since the 1970s, and is now five times Britain's, nine times Germany's and 14 times Japan's. At any one time, one American adult in 35 is in prison, on parole or on probation. A third of African-American men can expect to be locked up at some point, and one in nine black children has a parent behind bars."

Grappling with severe overcapacity and dysfunction, Alabama's prison system has become the poster child for penal system mismanagement. As Tocqueville noted almost 200 years ago, such a situation can have dire consequences for broader civil society. The simple adage of "locking up and throwing away the key" for every offender is rife with all type of ill and unintended consequences.

Most likely desiring some type of "legislative win" that could blunt the mounting focus and negative scrutiny he's been receiving for his very public moral transgressions, Gov. Robert Bentley was zealous to get the \$800 billion prison consolidation and construction bill through the Legislature. It died in the final minutes of the legislative session.

The main thrust of the bill is the building of four "mega-prisons," which would address the overcrowding issue, but as we've been able to see, the goal of prison is, or should be, not just the housing of offenders, but the rehabilitation of them as well. Prison is, and should be, designed as punishment for crimes against society, but also should be an instrument to help change negative behavior.

Prison should be more than a warehouse; it should also be a tool to help facilitate integration back into civil society in a way

that positively benefits society, thereby reducing the chance of repeat criminal actions by an offender.

Almost \$1 billion is a lot to spend on prisons, especially without including more than adequate funding for multifaceted programs and policies throughout the criminal justice system to keep prisoners from returning to the system. Recidivism, the tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior — especially criminal behavior — has shown to be increased by incarceration in very large penal institutions. Large prisons have also been shown to facilitate increased gang activity.

According to Charlotte Morrison, a senior attorney at the Equal Justice Initiative, "The crisis with [Alabama] prisons has to do with culture and management; it's not something that can be solved by just building new prisons." The infrastructure problems in Alabama prisons are very real, but the more critical and vital issues facing the Alabama corrections system are not going to be met by just building mega prisons.

Since 1977, changes in Alabama's criminal statutes have caused the state's prison inmate population to increase more than 840 percent. As the population has skyrocketed, so has the cost. In being "tough on crime" we've been tough on ourselves, particularly fiscally, and the impact on communities socially through such a policy has been tough as well.

A report issued by The Pew Charitable Trusts shows that for all our "toughness," Alabama's crime rate only dropped 19 percent between 1994 and 2012, topping only six other states. Our approach may have been tough, but it hasn't proven very smart.

There's a good chance the governor may call a special session to address the failure of the passage of the prison bill, among other things. If so, let's hope that if consensus is reached on this issue, it's on a wise and smart plan, not just an expedient one, or one that scores political points. If not, as the past and history has shown, it's not just criminals who will pay a price, but all of us.

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Left to right: John Erwin, Aaron White, Sam Davis Jr., Carla Joyner, Doug Thomas, Brandon Armstrong, Joel Ross, Karen Morris, Jim Sigler, John Naughton



The broken record of a busted speaker

BY LEE HEDGEPEETH/CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard's trial is well underway. Hubbard, who gained his position in 2010, now faces 23 felony counts of ethics violations, conviction on any one of which could land the Auburn Republican behind bars for two to 20 years.

Hubbard's legal battle began in October 2014 when he was indicted, and since then his image has gone from that of an electoral hero for the GOP — for whom he helped gain a majority in the State House for the first time in over a century — to that of a political pariah: one who brings more stink than stature to the office.

Before Hubbard was in a position some consider the highest in Alabama politics, he was just a minority member of the Legislature's lower chamber. First elected in 1998, Hubbard originally came to hold significant power not in the State House, but in the Republican Party itself, when he became chairman of the Alabama GOP.

In this position, Hubbard became a kingmaker, hand-picking friends, acquaintances and business associates to help in his plan to take advantage of the steady decline of Democrats in the state by aggressively campaigning to institute a legislative majority in Montgomery for the GOP — a strategy he called "Storming the State House." That effort, long-planned and swiftly executed, was a huge success.

After orchestrating a statewide campaign on issues such as bringing ethical leadership back to Goat Hill, Hubbard and his party successfully ousted the Democratic majority on Election Day 2010.

Hubbard wrote about that day in his book on the 2010 electoral takeover, "Storming the State House: The Campaign that Liberated Alabama from 136 Years of Democrat Rule."

"It was a day that would fundamentally change the direction of Alabama, and of my own life, forever," he wrote.

He couldn't have been more right, in all the worst ways.

Hubbard had argued continuously throughout the campaign that returning ethics to Montgomery was a top priority for the Republicans.

"We can pass tough ethics reform measures that will finally put a stop to the embarrassing headlines and prevent public corruption before it occurs," Hubbard told al.com before the election.

Just after Hubbard and his new colleagues took their places in the new GOP majority, they held a special session to pass what Hubbard again and again called "the toughest ethics laws in the nation," making good on his campaign promise — until now.

Today, more than half a decade later, the GOP's now supermajority in the Legislature hasn't stemmed the flow of what Hubbard called "embarrassing headlines ... and public corruption." Instead, the headlines are more frequent and the public corruption more apparent. Hubbard himself is the embarrassing, now national, headline.

That fact — that Alabama's fate in the national spotlight now hinges on the unethical conduct of its political leadership — seems to make Mike Hubbard's future important to all Alabamians. Speaker Hubbard's trial in the court of public opinion reflects Alabama's own self-evaluation: can we as a state hold our own accountable?

In my view, some already are.

Whether or not Hubbard is guilty of 23 felonies isn't my call; it's the call of a jury in Lee County. Whether or not he's an ethical leader, though, is my call — and the call of all Alabamians. And I think they're making the right decision.

Over a year ago, I was browsing in a popular used bookstore when I happened upon a copy of Hubbard's book on a local history shelf. To my surprise, when I opened the book, it

was autographed by Hubbard on the first page. "This copy of 'Storming the State House' has been signed by the author," the page read. Then, at the bottom in fine blue ink "M. Hubbard." Odd, I thought, that someone would dump off a copy like this, although even then Hubbard's indictment was making waves in Montgomery. In any case, I shrugged it off, but bought the book for about \$15.

Months later, I was in the same bookstore. Perusing the shelves, I found another copy of Hubbard's book, and another, both with the same first page, both with "M. Hubbard," signed, only a little differently, in blue ink at the bottom. I thought they may have been signed by staffers, or an autopen. Surely, I thought, people weren't throwing away signed copies of the speaker's book. I flipped past the first page to see if the books even looked like they'd been opened more than once.

What I saw stunned me.

People aren't just giving away copies of Hubbard's book — and signature — for \$10 and \$15. They are giving away actual, handwritten messages from the then-newly elected speaker. Both books, one of which sits in front of me, had special inscriptions written by the speaker in the same fine blue ink.

"For a great Alabama attorney," this copy of Hubbard's manifesto has scribbled on its second page, mentioning the lawyer by name. "I hope you enjoy this story of an Alabama political plan that worked. Keep the faith. Mike."

That Alabama lawyer, it seems, may have enjoyed the beginning of the story — the beginning outlined in "Storming the State House." The ending, though — the one currently being written in a Lee County courthouse, the one with Mike Hubbard, defendant, as its main character — is one the "great Alabama attorney" doesn't want a part of. That ending is just another sign of the broken record of a busted speaker.

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Open source workspaces rapidly on the rise in Mobile

BY RON SIVAK/COLUMNIST | business@lagniappemobile.com

According to Todd Greer, managing partner at Exchange 202, arguably Mobile's first bona fide coworking space, there is a palpable buzz in the local business community about this big-city co-op model. Mobile is in good company; from 2010 to 2015, there's been an estimated fivefold increase in the rise of coworking office spaces worldwide.

"We've seen insurance costs continue to skyrocket and more contract labor used instead of full-time employees. Most recent estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics have indicated that by 2020 at least 40 percent of the total U.S. workforce is going to be contingent workers not tethered to specific company," Greer said. "In that same time frame, about 50 percent of the workforce will be [made up] of Millennials who want a collaborative work environment."

Coworking has become so popular locally, in fact, there are an estimated five such spots dotting the Port City landscape less than a year after the Exchange threw open its doors last October. Greer feels the local market can sustain such rapid growth as long as each venue maintains a strong focus on its particular niche, otherwise oversaturation could occur.

One of these new spaces, slated for a mid-July kickoff on the ground floor of the Marine Street Lofts apartments, will be the Container Yard. Founded in partnership with Stacy Wellborn, Johnny Gwin and local property developer Taylor Atchison, this co-op site will be aimed at individuals just starting out as entrepreneurs, as opposed to more established freelancers or businesses setting up shop downtown.

"At Marine Street Lofts we were looking at ways to empower our tenants by giving them choices. People today look at many factors when contemplating a move into a new residence and want multiple options," Atchison said. "Coworking gives our tenants a way to develop their own business ideas and/or even get out of them if they realize the venture isn't working out the way they'd hoped."

Listen to the inaugural Real Deal Podcast accompanying this story online for more insight into the facts behind the hype about coworking growth in the area.

Commercial real estate moves

A new Birmingham-based Taziki's Mediterranean Café is opening its first location in South Alabama this month at 1539 U.S. Highway 98, Suite 201, in Daphne. The new site will mark the 14th Taziki's franchise overall in Alabama. The floor plan is 3,095 square feet and will employ upwards of 50 local workers when fully staffed. The restaurant will also include outdoor patio seating. Local franchise owner Mark Hemby has expressed plans to add at least two more Taziki eateries in the Mobile and Baldwin county region within the next several years.

Paul Milazzo, State Farm insurance agent, has leased 1,250 square feet of office space at 440 Azalea Road in Mobile and is expected to open in early July. Stirling Properties' Angela McArthur worked for the property owner and Ann White-Spunner with The McAleer-Tunstall Co. represented the tenant.

Physicians Health Solutions, a medical weight loss clinic, has leased a 1,450-square-foot medical office at 6420 Hillcrest Park Court, Suite A, in Mobile and is expected to open Aug. 1. McArthur represented both the tenant and property owner.

The Alabama Department of Public Health recently leased a 3,000-square-foot office space in Mobile at 3103 Airport Blvd. and is now open. Stirling Properties leasing executive Jason Scott represented the property owner.

John Delchamps, associate broker with the Merrill P. Thomas Co., represented the acquisition of two acres of commercial property for \$231,000 that will be located off Lakeside Drive for a new company operational expansion. Robert Cook with Vallas Realty worked for the seller.

Mobile Bookseller, a 1,100-square-foot used book retailer located inside the Skyland Shopping Center at 3990 Government St., is under new ownership. LaGrange, Georgia-based Melanie and Tom Durham recently purchased the 40-year-old West Mobile business and have invested more than \$1,000 in cosmetic renovations.

As reported last week by Lagniappe's food critic, Lickin

Good Donuts is holding a grand opening June 2 for its new, 1,000-square-foot site situated at 3170 Dauphin St. in the same shopping center as Greer's Cash Saver. Located almost directly behind Taco Bell, the popular confectionery will include a drive-through. This is the second location opened by Texas native Sam Heng, who also owns the Lickin Good in Saraland, where he resides with his family.

The Peninsula of Mobile earns recognition

Debi Foster, director of The Peninsula of Mobile, was recently presented with the 2016 "Group of the Year" award during the 18th annual Alabama Water Rally section of the National River Rally conference held downtown. She was joined at the event by board co-chairman Kathy Sanders and advisory board member Aven Warner.

"We are shocked and honored to receive this award from such a respected organization as the Alabama Rivers Alliance," Foster said. "We look at ourselves as an economic redevelopment response for surrounding areas still suffering from the lingering aftereffects of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil disaster."

Located south of Interstate 10 in the southernmost part of Mobile, The Peninsula is the section of Dauphin Island Parkway/State 163 bounded by Dog River on the south and west, to the east by Mobile Bay and a northernmost demarcation line defined by The Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley, home of the North American headquarters for Airbus.

The 5-mile-long community of nearly 13,000 residents is crisscrossed by creeks and bayous, combined with estuaries and marshes protecting Dog River, its tributaries and Mobile Bay. The habitat provides critical breeding grounds for a diverse population of local wildlife.

Established in 2013, The Peninsula of Mobile was created with the mission of working toward developing a cleaner environment by educating the local community about sustaining the region's unique and varied biospheres.

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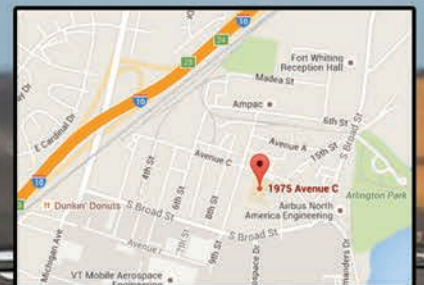
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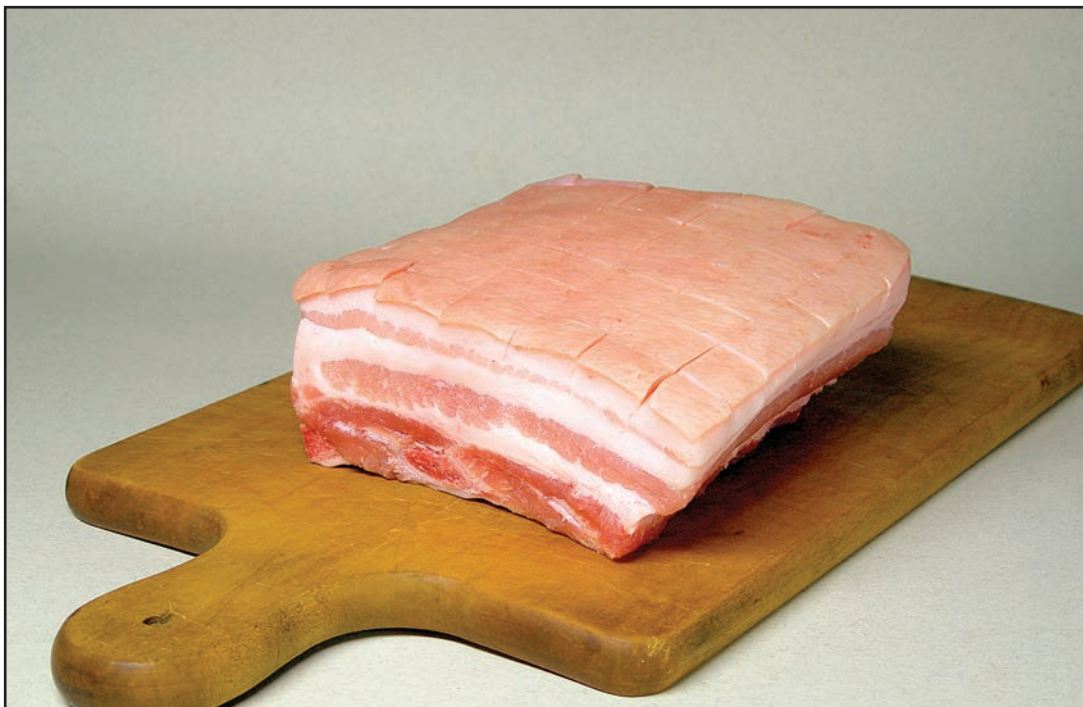
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Pork belly, the new bacon

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



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I cannot for the life of me remember a time without bacon. We didn't make much of a fuss about it, we just fried it up for breakfast. I'd have an occasional BLT when the tomatoes came in. It was even a thing to crumble on a salad when you didn't trust those odd bacon bits that came in a jar.

Truth is I trusted those weird things but never saw them as a bacon substitute. I fancied them as more a handful of salt for a late-night snack.

At some point pop culture changed to make a big deal out of bacon. Yes, just plain bacon. I get it. It's great. But for crying out loud, there is no need to berate vegetarians for abstinence, nor is there any reason to create social media memes telling the world how much you love bacon. "Money can't buy happiness, but it can buy bacon, which is pretty much the same thing." How many of those gems have you seen?

It got so popular to declare your allegiance to bacon — in a scary world of Lipitor and blood thinners, health be damned — that the tragically hip (and oft ironically skinny) got the memo that the rest of the carnivorous free world had always maintained a love affair with the salt-cured, cold-smoked underside of the pig. Something had to change. Bacon needed a repackaging. "Let us not profess our love for the common bacon. Let us sing the praises of pork belly."

Yes, pork belly became the supercool replacement for bacon among the culinary elite. Want to turn a \$3 pack of bacon into a real moneymaker? Change the name to pork belly. Yes, bacon comes from the same ticklish spot on ol' Wilbur. Bacon is pork belly. So what's the difference?

Technically you could call bacon pork belly but, for clarification, there is generally a difference in preparation. Bacon refers to pork belly that has been cured and sliced, harkening back to the days before modern refrigeration, when our meats needed preservation and our oysters were only eaten raw in months that contain the letter "R."

When we say pork belly today we think of an unmolested piece of meat, straight from the pig to our preferred method of cooking. Usually it comes as an entire slab that will be sliced after cooking. The telltale layer of fat lets you know this is nothing like a tenderloin, but it will be worth the extra statins and calories by the time all is said and done.

Pork belly is simply uncooked, uncured bacon. Finding a slab and marinating it for tacos may prove to be a chore, but the results are well worth the effort.

You could certainly slice it raw and use it for thick-cut, uncured bacon. These slices work well on the grill and can add a nice touch to a camping trip's skillet on the open fire. Certainly you've heard the Italians speak of pancetta. Some prefer it braised with veggies while others love the crispy fried crackling.

It is often difficult to find the big slab of pork belly in our local grocery stores, including the ones with fancier clientele, but no one takes pork belly as seriously as Asians. Go ahead and Google some recipes. You'll find plenty of Chinese and Korean ideas. Therefore, in Mobile, when you can't find pork belly on your routine stops to our impressive list of giant chain stores, you must make your way to an Asian market.

That's where we picked up this beauty. Glazed with root

**“ YES, PORK BELLY BECAME THE
SUPERCool REPLACEMENT
FOR BACON AMONG THE CULINARY ELITE.
WANT TO TURN A \$3 PACK OF BACON
INTO A REAL MONEYMAKER? CHANGE
THE NAME TO PORK BELLY. ”**

beer, ginger and molasses, this recipe for tacos is bad to the boneless, making me proud to be a member (maybe not a card-carrying member) of the aforementioned hip food scene. Until recent years this two-word sub for bacon was only familiar to me as a futures and commodities trading term when Mortimer and Randolph tried to dupe Winthorpe and Billy Ray Valentine in "Trading Places." Good to know my vocabulary (and perhaps tastes) are growing.

THE MARINADE

**2 cups apple juice
2 cups root beer
2 tablespoons soy sauce
4 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup molasses
1 tablespoon ground ginger
Salt and pepper**

The most important part of this process is scoring the top of the pork belly. With a sharp blade, make a crisscross pattern in the fatty top, taking care to not slice the meat. Reserve about 3/4 cup of the marinade for the glaze, but choose a dish in which the pork belly will be well covered. Marinate for 6 hours to overnight.

Cook the pork belly in a baking dish at 375 degrees for three hours, covered tightly in aluminum foil with enough marinade to cover the bottom half-inch of the meat. Check regularly to make sure the liquid has not evaporated, adding small doses of warm water if needed. Remove from the oven and drain off any liquid; if you'd like you could use it to supplement the glaze.

For the glaze, heat the remaining marinade in a small saucepan and bring to a simmer. In a small, bowl whisk in 2 tablespoon of cornstarch into a quarter cup of water. Pour into the saucepan with mixture and stir constantly as you bring up the heat. Try not to let it boil, but the higher the temp the quicker it will thicken.

Raise the oven temperature to 450 degrees. Glaze the pork and return to the oven fat side up as the root beer does its magic.

We enjoyed this pork belly sliced on tacos with a mango habanero slaw we purchased at the same Asian market, and I will say I was not disappointed. On this day our pork belly did much more than our usual bacon could do.

But it's all still bacon to me.

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Fairhope Brewing embraces beer to go

BY DAN MURPHY/CONTRIBUTING WRITER | grandkrewe@lagniappemobile.com



FAIRHOPE BREWING CO. BREWER TIM HEATH DISPLAYS THE BREWERY'S CROWLER MACHINE, WHICH FILLS AND SEALS 32-OUNCE ALUMINUM CANS CUSTOMERS CAN PURCHASE ONSITE.

Photo | fairhopebrewing.com

When the clock struck midnight on Tuesday, the folks at Fairhope Brewing Co. were ready to usher in a new era for the state’s taprooms: the era of beer to-go. Before June 1, you could enjoy any number of beers made at the Eastern Shore brewery, but you couldn’t take any out the door. With the passage of the “growler law,” which allows breweries to sell up to 288 ounces of beer a day, that’s in the past. I spoke to Fairhope brewer Tim Heath before the law took effect to find out just what this means.

Grand Krewe: So, tell me: When June 1 hits, what changes can people expect at Fairhope Brewing Co.?

Tim Heath: Obviously, beer to-go is the big thing. Even though it’s been dubbed the “growler bill” in the media over the past couple of months, we made the decision to go with crowlers instead, which are 32-ounce aluminum cans. Also, it will allow us to sell six-packs and four-packs of our core beers, so we’ll have those available as well as a selection of large-format bottles — some 500 mL stuff and some 22-ounce bombers — on June 1.

Krewe: Large-format bottles, huh? I’m intrigued. Tell me more.

Heath: We wanted to have a wealth of variety, and we also wanted to have some special stuff for Day 1, so if someone wanted to take home a bottle on that first day, there’s bound to be something in that case that they like. We’re going to have Port-Barrel-Aged Merry Widows Imperial Stout, our 51 Pale Ale that was aged in a tequila barrel, and then a new sour golden ale called Mavericks that was fermented with peaches and apricots.

Krewe: Why crowlers and not growlers?

Heath: We know people love their growlers, so it was probably the hardest decision we had to make, but just being able to take aluminum to places where you can’t take glass, like the beach, for instance, was a big thing for us. And with the summer months upon us, we’re going to see a lot of people coming through either on their way to the beach or maybe on a rainy day they pop up here in the taproom. We wanted to make sure we have a product they can take on any of their adventures.

The other nice thing is that the crowler was designed by a brewery for breweries. Oskar Blues and their can manufacturer, Ball, got together to design and fabricate the machine, so it was

designed intentionally for beer to make sure you get the best possible product to the consumer.

There are some nice things to be said about the 32-ounce size as well. It’s like the perfect size to share with one or two other people, and if you’re getting it filled 32 ounces at a time at the brewery, it opens up the door for you to try and take home a couple more than you maybe would if you had to get 64 ounces at a time.

The downside is that it’s not reusable, but we will not be passing along the cost of the crowler to the consumer. It’s pretty insignificant in the larger scheme of things, so we felt like that was a fair way to make up for not refilling reusable glass growlers.

Krewe: So, if someone comes in with their favorite growler to get refilled, they’re just out of luck?

Heath: Unfortunately at this time, it’s going to crowlers only. The fear is that if you make the one exception, then there’s a snowball effect.

Dan Murphy is a Certified Cicerone® and the founding brewer at Fairhope Brewing Co. Follow him on Instagram @Grand_Krewe and on Twitter @Beer_Man_Dan.

Fairhope Brewing Co. hosts Food for Thought

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

Do you think you can put together a team that has what it takes to smoke other local teams in a game of trivia? Can your team stomach a few pints of really fantastic beer? Would your team be proud to contribute to a worthy cause?

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, I have the event for you. Sunday, June 12, the Fairhope Brewing Co. will be hosting Food for Thought, a sort of Battle Royale of trivia pitting brother against brother, turning friend to foe for three short hours, from 2-5 p.m.

Teams of six or fewer are encouraged to sign up for \$50 per team, seeking prizes worth the effort, with all proceeds benefiting Feeding the Gulf Coast (formerly Bay Area Food Bank), which is currently serving a 24-county area spanning South Alabama, South Mississippi and the Florida Panhandle.

This organization stays busy, and last year alone distributed over 20 million pounds of food to more than 400 church pantries, soup kitchens and nonprofit organizations in our area. You may

also have heard of its Summer Food Service, Afterschool Snack, Backpack, Disaster Relief, Community Garden, Mobile Pantry, Produce Drop, Cooking Matters and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Outreach programs, all under this United Way agency.

Food will be sold at this event, and of course the beer is divine at Fairhope Brewing’s taproom, located at 914 Nichols Ave. in beautiful Fairhope. For more information about Feeding the Gulf Coast visit www.feedingthegulfcoast.org or see Fairhope Brewing Co. on social media and its website, www.fairhopebrewing.com.

Cream and Sugar delights OGD with new menu items

The Oakleigh Garden District is getting a little bit richer at the corner of George and Savannah. It seems Cream and Sugar Café has some new sandwiches just in time for warmer weather.

Our little coffeehouse known for its cake balls and marvelous breakfast (including grits with gumbo) is upping the ante with

some new vegetarian sandwiches added to their already carnivore-friendly menu.

The new Mediterranean flatbread comes with spinach, sliced tomatoes and cucumber with feta cheese and tzatziki sauce. It’s pretty close to a gyro without the lamb. Another new and soon-to-be favorite is the artichoke and spinach grilled cheese. Doesn’t that sound good? It’s taking grilled cheese to the next level.

Of course there’s still a fine selection of coffee and teas, and that familiar killer breakfast burrito has not left the building except in plenty of to-go boxes. You’ll always want to visit the popular spot, next to Kitchen on George, for a healthy dose of those ever-popular cake balls, currently featuring some really neat-looking graduation versions for our favorite seniors.

Congratulations to all of our graduating classes, and especially to Lucas, who is headed into middle school. You’ve made us all proud.

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The high cost of dying: Counties show an uptick in indigent burials

BY JASON JOHNSON AND ERIC MANN

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT CHANGE along with the ebb and flow of the economy, like the real estate market, governmental tax revenues and employment rates.

However, one lesser-known byproduct of a downward trend in personal wealth is the effect it can have on the number of individuals and families receiving public assistance for end-of-life services.

Though the term “public assistance” is instantly polarizing in today’s political landscape, this particular government service has been provided by Alabama counties since the 1800s — a charge placed on each county in the state code.

“Upon the decease of any person having no estate and leaving no relatives in the county with the ability or estate adequate to defray his necessary burial expenses, such necessary burial expenses are a charge upon the county in which such death shall take place,” it reads.

In short, if someone dies in a county — even if they’re just passing through — the responsibility for burying the deceased falls on the county commission if the person or their family lacks the means to pay for those services.

Like areas across the country, Mobile and Baldwin counties have both seen an increase in the number of people utilizing these programs in recent years, and with funeral costs rising and the economy still on the mend, many believe those numbers are going to continue going up.

Baldwin County Coroner Stan Vinson told Lagniappe the state of the economy often dictates the number of unclaimed bodies and indigent burial requests his office receives. Over the next few years, he’s expecting a rise in those cases due to the economy and an influx of homeless persons in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

“We are seeing more and more homeless people here, and in the unfortunate event that they die, it may be difficult to find a next of kin,” Vinson said. “I expect many of those deaths to end up being unclaimed or becoming indigent burials.”

Increased costs for families, counties

According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the average cost of a burial in the United States is more than \$7,000, and those are base-level services — the funeral home, embalming, visitation, a service, a hearse and a basic casket.

Compared to the \$700 cost of similar services in 1968, today’s prices are the result of a steady increase — uninterrupted since the 1970s — that has consistently outpaced the inflation of the dollar.

While the cost of indigent services are often much cheaper, the rise in the cost of privately funded burials seems to have happened in concert with an uptick in the number of people receiving public assistance for end-of-life services.

In the past decade, Mobile County has recorded a 268 percent increase in the cost of its indigent burial program, with annual allocations jumping from \$30,529 in 2006 to \$113,700 in 2013. In the past two years, the cost has only dropped around a single percentage point.

Edith Gray, assistant to Mobile County’s deputy administrator, is tasked with vetting and managing those who apply for indigent burials in Mobile County. She told Lagniappe there hasn’t historically been a set budget allocation for those services in the county’s general fund because the costs often fluctuate.

“You never know. Some counties have a budget for indigent funding, but we don’t because it’s just such a moving target,” Gray said. “The number per year has kind of always fluctuated up and down, but lately it’s been rising. I’m not sure why, though it may just be because people are becoming more aware of the program.”

According to the county, there were 149 indigent burials or cremations last year, compared to just 42 a decade earlier. In previous years, the National Association of Counties has reported similar nationwide trends that hit record highs around 2011.

In Mobile County, Gray said, most recipients of indigent burial funds are elderly members of the community who don’t personally own property and have outlived most of their relatives. The vast majority are locals, though there are some exceptions — like when a Romanian citizen died while visiting the U.S. on a travel visa just a few years ago.

“He had cancer, and from what they gathered at the morgue, he had traveled here because he wanted to die in the United States,” Gray said. “In that case, the funeral home made a call to the Romanian Embassy to see if he had any next of kin listed, but after two weeks, we ended up doing indigent cremation.”

The county pays \$600 for indigent cremation and \$900 for an indigent burial — rates Gray says haven’t changed since the 1990s. Currently, the family of the deceased is allowed to select which procedure is used, but if no family can be reached, the county automatically uses the less costly option of cremation.

According to Gray, there are several ways the county vets the applicants for indigent burial funding, though as the state law says, the only true requirement is that the deceased and their immediate family own no property in Mobile County.

According to Gray, Mobile County defines immediate family as a parent or legal guardian, a sibling or an adult-aged child. When indigent status is applied for, those claims are verified by reviewing the deceased’s family history and local property records.

However, Gray said she also works with other agencies that may have already documented a person’s indigent status, such as the Department of Human Resources and the Social Security Administration.

“There’s people who do try to get away with it and say they don’t have property, while I’m looking at a deed,” Gray said. “Though our property searches only pertain to Mobile County, because the code just states inside the county. So unfortunately, if they happen to own a beach house in Gulf Shores, it can’t be considered with regard to indigent burial.”

Indigent burials in Baldwin County

Like population, the rate of indigent burials is higher on the western side of the bay, but Baldwin County is still required by law to provide cremation and burial services for those who qualify.

As coroner, Vinson said his office handled roughly 500 death investigations last year, but only 12 of those cases involved an unclaimed body or an indigent burial request. This year the office is on a similar pace, seeing six through May.

“In the event that we have an unclaimed body, we have to go to the court to get a court order to cremate the body,” Vinson said. “The county has a contract with a local funeral home, which will then cremate the remains. Those remains come to my office, where I have to hold them for at least 180 days.”

According to Vinson, after 180 days those remains can be disposed of, but they often are not on the chance someone eventually comes forward as a relative. Vinson said there are currently cremated remains in his office that “have been here well over 180 days.”

The Baldwin County Commission has a contract with Wolfe-Bayview Funeral Home for cremation and indigent burial services. Vinson said there is no charge to retrieve the remains of an unclaimed body.

“If someone comes forward as a relative, I offer them the cremated remains,” Vinson said. “I will release them to them.”

The county will also provide indigent cremation services to those who cannot afford the high costs associated with a traditional funeral and burial. Vinson’s office requests the Baldwin County Council on Aging qualify the family for an indigent cremation.

“Every case is different because everyone’s situation is different,” Council on Aging Office Manager Beverly Johnson said. “The county will look to see what kind of assets the person’s immediate family has before making the determination.”

Baldwin County defines immediate family similarly to Mobile, including a decedent’s mother, father, sibling or adult-aged child. If any of those relatives owns property in the county, the deceased may not qualify as indigent. In addition, Johnson said people who pass away in nursing homes will often have trusts built up that can cover the cost of a cremation.

As was the case in Mobile County, burials were proving far more costly than cremations, but the more pressing issue in Baldwin is space. In 2014, Baldwin County began only offering indigent cremations as the county cemetery in Foley began reaching capacity — though some religious exceptions are still made.

According to Johnson, the Council on Aging typically sees roughly eight indigent cremation requests per year, but she said “there does seem to be more coming in this year.” In just the last week, the the council has received three.

The Baldwin coroner’s office is responsible for determining the cause and manner of death of a person who dies and is not under medical care. All traumatic deaths such as murder, suicide, accidental, motor vehicle and drowning are required by law to be reported to the coroner.

While it hasn’t happened recently, Vinson said a body that is both unclaimed and unidentified would not be cremated, but instead buried in one of the county’s lots in Foley or stored in its refrigeration unit.

“Once you cremate a body, everything that could identify the person is gone,” Vinson said. “In the case of an unidentified

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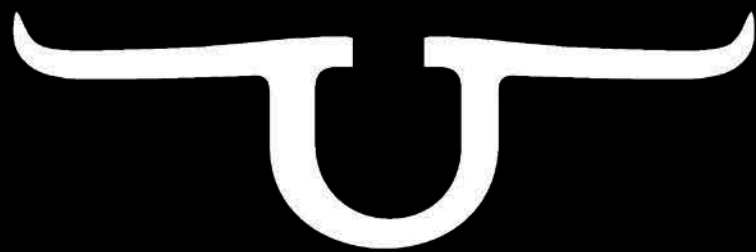
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NIGHTLIFE

BEST ALL AROUND BAR

- a) Alchemy Tavern
- b) Callaghan's Irish Social Club
- c) O'Daly's Irish Pub
- d) Royal Street Tavern
- e) The Garage
- f) Tongue and Groove, Fairhope

BEST BARTENDER

- a) Adam Yunker - Royal Street Tavern
- b) Akin Dunbar - The Battle House/Royal Street Tavern
- c) Alex Daniels - Boo Radley's/Brickyard
- d) Roy Clark - The Merry Widow
- e) Randy Jennings - Sidecar Lounge/ The Noble South
- f) Ricky Havens - Pour Baby

BEST BARTENDERESS

- a) Dana Hood - Royal Knight
- b) Lindsey Bembry - The Garage
- c) Melanie Arnold - Tinder Box Cigar Lounge
- d) Miranda Thomas - Bishop's Southern Tradition
- e) Rachael Norris - Hayley's
- f) Tasha Tupa - The Merry Widow

HOTTEST BARTENDER

- a) Ricky Havens - Pour Baby
- b) Will Reid - Hayley's
- c) Adam Yunker - Royal Street Tavern
- d) Austin Maynard - Island Wing Company
- e) Bubba Rollins - Bayhouse Pub
- f) Ross Fuentes - Fisher's Orange Beach Marina

HOTTEST BARTENDERESS

- a) Carrie Baynes - Beef O'Brady's
- b) Danielle Burgman - Gumbo Shack
- c) Gina Jo Previto - Veet's
- d) Laura Gherardini - O' Daly's
- e) Lindsey Bembry - The Garage
- f) Manda Motes

BEST NEW BAR

- a) 5 Bar
- b) Bone & Barrel
- c) The Merry Widow
- d) The Mystic
- e) Tinder Box Cigar Lounge
- f) Tongue and Groove

BEST DIVE BAR

- a) Hayley's
- b) Royal Knight
- c) Silverhorse Pub
- d) The Garage
- e) Top of the Bay
- f) Veet's

BEST E-SHO BAR

- a) Bone & Barrel
- b) Manci's
- c) McSharry's Irish Pub
- d) Plow
- e) Tongue and Groove
- f) Top of the Bay

BEST WEMO BAR

- a) Cockeyed Charlie's
- b) Crooked Martini
- c) Heroes USA
- d) Midnight Rodeo
- e) Pour Baby
- f) Tinder Box Cigar Lounge

BEST MIMO BAR

- a) Ashland Midtown Pub
- b) Fuego
- c) Kimberly's
- d) Mellow Mushroom Midtown
- e) Red or White
- f) Silverhorse Pub

BEST LODA BAR

- a) Alchemy Tavern
- b) Brickyard
- c) Hayley's
- d) LoDa Bier Garten
- e) O'Daly's
- f) OK Bike Shop

BEST SOMO BAR

- a) Buccaneer Yacht Club
- b) Fin's
- c) Pelican Pub
- d) Pirates Bar and Grill
- e) Rivershack
- f) Zebra Lounge

BEST BEACH BAR

- a) Flora-Bama
- b) Hangout
- c) LuLu's
- d) Pink Pony
- e) Pirate's Cove
- f) The Gulf

BEST WINE BAR

- a) Domke Market
- b) Firehouse Wine Bar
- c) Pour Baby
- d) Red or White - Fairhope
- e) Red or White - Mobile
- f) Southern Napa

BEST FANCY DRINK BAR

- a) Bonefish Grill
- b) Crooked Martini
- c) Dauphin's
- d) The Merry Widow
- e) Royal Street Tavern
- f) Tongue and Groove

BEST AFTER-HOURS BAR

- a) Alchemy Tavern
- b) Boo Radley's
- c) Cockeyed Charlie's
- d) Gabriel's
- e) Hayley's
- f) Top of the Bay

BEST HAPPY HOUR BAR

- a) Bonefish Grill
- b) Café 615
- c) Royal Scam
- d) Royal Street Tavern
- e) The Garage
- f) Wintzell's

BEST E-SHO HAPPY HOUR BAR

- a) Baumhower's
- b) California Dreaming
- c) Fairways Indoor Golf Club
- d) Gumbo Shack
- e) McSharry's Irish Pub
- f) Top of the Bay

BEST SPORTS BAR

- a) Heroes
- b) Bishop's Southern Tradition
- c) Buffalo Wild Wings
- d) Baumhower's
- e) Joe Cain Cafe
- f) Fairways Indoor Golf Club

BEST COLLEGE BAR

- a) Boo Radley's
- b) Heroes USA
- c) O'Daly's
- d) Pat's Downtown Bar and Grill
- e) Picklefish
- f) Stir

BEST WATERFRONT BAR

- a) Bluegill
- b) Boudreaux's
- c) Flora-Bama Yacht Club
- d) Pirate's Cove
- e) Sunset Pointe in Fairhope
- f) The River Shack

BAR WHERE YOU ARE MOST LIKELY TO GET LUCKY

- a) Boo Radley's
- b) Hayley's
- c) B-Bob's
- d) McSharry's Irish Pub
- e) O'Dalys
- f) The Garage

BEST CRAWFISH BAR

- a) Hayley's
- b) The Merry Widow
- c) Silverhorse Pub
- d) LoDa Bier Garten
- e) The Garage
- f) Silver Horse Pub

BEST PLACE TO SHAKE YOUR BOOTY

- a) B-Bob's
- b) Boo Radley's
- c) Midnight Rodeo
- d) Saddle Up Saloon
- e) Shenanigans
- f) The Brickyard

BEST GAY BAR

- a) B-Bob's
- b) Gabriel's
- c) Flip Side
- d) Midtown Pub

FAVORITE CRAFT BEER

- a) Abita Strawberry
- b) Abita Andygator
- c) Fairhope Brewery Everyday Ale
- d) Fairhope Brewery Judge Roy Bean Coffee Stout
- e) Fairhope Take The Causeway IPA
- f) Fat Tire

FAVORITE IMPORT BEER

- a) Blue Moon
- b) Corona
- c) Dos Equis
- d) Guinness
- e) Hoffbrau
- f) Stella Artois



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BEST TAP BEER SELECTION

- a) Alchemy Tavern
- b) Buffalo Wild Wings
- c) Draft Picks
- d) LoDa Bier Garten
- e) Mellow Mushroom
- f) Montego's

FAVORITE CASINO

- a) Beau Rivage
- b) Golden Nugget
- c) Hard Rock Casino
- d) Imperial Palace
- e) Palace Casino
- f) Wind Creek Casino

BEST BAR BATHROOM

- a) Alchemy Tavern
- b) Fairhope Brewing Co.
- c) LoDa Bier Garten
- d) Royal Street Tavern aka the Tavern
- e) Tongue and Groove, Fairhope
- f) Xcite

BAR BATHROOM FROM HELL

- a) Hayley's
- b) Royal Knight
- c) Soul Kitchen
- d) The Garage

BEST MARGARITA

- a) Dauphin Street Taqueria
- b) Fuego
- c) La Cocina
- d) T. P. Crockmier's
- e) Taqueria Mexico
- f) Tongue & Groove

BEST BLOODY MARY

- a) Ashland Midtown Pub
- b) Brick and Spoon
- c) Cafe 615
- d) Hayley's
- e) Kitchen on George
- f) LoDa Bier Garten

THE PERFECT MARTINI

- a) Half Shell Oyster House
- b) Royal Scam
- c) Royal Street Tavern
- d) Ruth's Chris
- e) The Noble South
- f) Tongue & Groove

BEST BUSHWACKER

- a) Fins
- b) Flora-Bama Yacht Club
- c) Moe's
- d) Pirate's Cove
- e) River Shack
- f) Tacky Jacks

BEST BAR TRIVIA

- a) Alchemy Tavern
- b) Buffalo Wild Wings
- c) Moe's BBQ
- d) OK Bike Shop
- e) Rotolo's
- f) The Blind Mule

BEST GENTLEMAN'S CLUB

- a) The Candy Store
- b) Diamonds
- c) Cookies-N-Cream

BEST HAIRSTYLIST

- a) Courtney McDonald - Harlow
- b) Julia Liller - Salon West 5400
- c) Julie Rhames - Harlow
- d) Rachel Humphrey - Studio Bliss
- e) Tami Williams - Tami's Mask & Mirror
- f) Whitney Vittor - Salon West 5400

BEST SALON

- a) Harlow Salon
- b) Pimp
- c) Salon West 54 Hundred
- d) Studio Bliss
- e) Studio PH
- f) Tami's Mask & Mirror Studio

BEST BARBER

- a) Dallas Jones Barber Shop
- b) Dean Sansom - Hillcrest Barber Shop
- c) Johnny Sullivan
- d) Mayo's Barber Shop
- e) Mike Edwards - Mike's Barber Shop
- f) Tillman's Barber Shop

BEST MAKEUP ARTIST

- a) Alexa Kiss - Salon West 5400
- b) Alexandria West
- c) Courtney Matthews
- d) Courtney McDonald - Harlow
- e) Jackie Merlau - J. Merlau Make-up
- f) Sarah Morton - Salons by JC

BEST HOOHA WAXER

- a) Amber Joy McLean - Medspa at the Park
- b) Anna Bishop - L.A. Bikini
- c) Bree Hamm - L.A. Bikini
- d) Crystal Quattrone - Pimp
- e) Elizabeth Spence - Tami's Mask and Mirror
- f) Jessica - Wax'd Day Spa

BEST PLACE TO GET A MANI

- a) Brenda's Nails
- b) Lily's Nails
- c) Old Shell Road Nail and Spa
- d) Royal Salon Day Spa
- e) Venetian Nail Spa
- f) Vivian's Nails

BEST PLACE TO GET A PEDI

- a) Hairageous Salon
- b) Lily's Nails
- c) Old Shell Road Nail and Spa
- d) Orchid Day Spa
- e) Spa at the Battlehouse
- f) Venetian Nail Spa

BEST ESTHETICIAN

- a) AmberJoy McLean - Medspa at the Park
- b) Ashley Maynard - Battle House Spa
- c) Courtney Owens - Lyons Cosmetic & Laser Surgery Center
- d) Crystal Quattrone - Pimp
- e) Jade Kittrell - Medspa at the Park
- f) Elizabeth Spence - Tami's Mask and Mirror

BEST DAY SPA

- a) Aesthetics and Weightloss of Mobile
- b) Lyons Cosmetic and Laser Surgery Center
- c) Medspa at the Park
- d) NouVeau Salon and Day Spa
- e) Spa at the Battlehouse
- f) The Martin Center

BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST

- a) Ginger Graf Dunaway - Quiet Mind
- b) Hanna Boltz - Therapeutic Arts Massage and Bodywork
- c) Heidi Pritchett - Above and Beyond Hot Yoga
- d) Jill McKinley - NouVeau
- e) Rebecca Havard - Tami's Mask & Mirror
- f) Roderick Gibbs

BEST TANNING SALON

- a) L.A. Bikini
- b) No Tan Lines
- c) Palm Beach Tan
- d) Semmes Tanning Salon
- e) Tiffany Tans
- f) Ultra Tanz

BEST HOOHA DOCTOR

- a) Dr. Amy McCoy
- b) Dr. Glenn Gallaspy, III
- c) Dr. Lauren Lambrecht
- d) Dr. Margaret McGrath
- e) Dr. Max Rogers
- f) Dr. Patton Morrison-Barton

BEST BOOB DOC

- a) Dr. Charles Dyas
- b) Dr. Christopher Park
- c) Dr. Stephen Sheppard
- d) Dr. Kittie Outlaw
- e) Dr. Randy Proffitt
- f) Dr. Robert Bolling

BEST FACELIFT DOC

- a) Dr. Charles Dyas
- b) Dr. Christopher Park
- c) Dr. Henry Barber
- d) Dr. Kimberly Donnellan
- e) Dr. Michael Lyons
- f) Dr. Stephen Martin

BEST DERMATOLOGIST

- a) Dr. Amy Morris
- b) Dr. Dena Howell
- c) Dr. Kathryn Dempsey
- d) Dr. Ryan Ramagosa
- e) Dr. Scott Van Look
- f) Dr. Thomas Bender

BEST WEIGHT LOSS DOC

- a) Dr. Jonathan Campbell - Eastern Shore Medical Weight Loss
- b) Dr. Lawrence Carpenter - Aesthetics & Weight Loss
- c) Dr. Michelle Jackson - Slim & Trim
- d) Dr. Ruth Shields - Healthy Weight 4 Me
- e) Drs. Quint Jardine and William Urquhart - Medi Weightloss Clinic of Mobile
- f) Rejuvenate Alabama

BEST "DOC IN THE BOX" CLINIC

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- b) Eastern Shore Urgent Care
- c) Greater Mobile Urgent Care
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- e) Immediate Care
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- c) Dr. Clarke Pradat
- d) Dr. Justin Southall
- e) Dr. Ken Bishop
- f) Dr. Mike Bucknell

BEST DENTIST

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- b) Dr. Donald Brown, Jr.
- c) Grelot Dental
- d) Dr. James Whatley
- e) Dr. Richard Noblet
- f) Dr. Ronald M Harrell

BEST GYM

- a) Alabama Youth Sports Combine
- b) Bodies by Cindy
- c) Fit Body Bootcamp
- d) No Off Season
- e) Pro Health
- f) Rock Paper Fitness

BEST PERSONAL TRAINER

- a) Shoshana Treichel
- b) Emily Powell
- c) Braxton Gilbert
- d) Cindy Ross
- e) Josh Foster
- f) Kasey Smith

BEST VETERINARIAN

- a) Dr. Roxy Leslie - Village Animal Clinic
- b) Dr. Carrie Deers - On The Spot Vet Care
- c) Dr. Christopher Boudreau - Boudreau Animal Clinic
- d) Dr. Jennifer Carney - Animal Hospital of Mobile
- e) Dr. Mary Katherine Cross - Old Shell Road Animal Hospital
- f) Rehman Animal Clinic

BEST PET GROOMER

- a) Adorable Do's
- b) Dapper Dog Mobile Pet Grooming
- c) Glamour Paws Grooming
- d) Melanie Sleeman - Just Right Pet Grooming
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BEST FLORIST

- a) All A Bloom
- b) Belle Bouquet
- c) Elizabeth's Garden
- d) Sarah Beth's Florist
- e) Wildflowers
- f) Zimlich the Florist

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- a) Chad Riley Photography
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- c) Joelle Rosen - Joelle Grace Photography
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- a) Above and Beyond Hot Yoga
- b) Fit Nest
- c) GLOW Yoga
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- b) Annette Porter-Ham - Synergy Yoga and Pilates
- c) Michelle Ryan - Sterling Hot Yoga Works
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- c) LLB&B
- d) Roberts Brothers Inc.
- e) Sam Winter
- f) The Cummings Company

BEST REALTOR

- a) Angela Locklier
- b) Bixler Cunningham
- c) Chris Clarke
- d) Paul Carter
- e) Sam Winter
- f) Sloane Parker

BEST INSURANCE AGENT OR AGENCY

- a) Allison Horner - State Farm Insurance
- b) Bayside Insurance
- c) Donna Gatlin - State Farm Insurance
- d) Jonah Dismukes - Worthy Insurance Agency
- e) Makeda Nichols - State Farm Insurance
- f) Paul Carter Agency

BEST MORTGAGE BROKER/FIRM

- a) Camille Wilkinson - Homeside Financial
- b) Craig Anderton - Bank of England
- c) Jim Dransfield, Advance Mortgage
- d) Mark Taylor - American Home Lending
- e) Mortgage Team 1
- f) Regions Mortgage

BEST INVESTMENT BANKER/ FINANCIAL PLANNER

- a) Carl Dekle
- b) Charlie Brown
- c) Jason Dabbs
- d) Keith Woodham
- e) Mikell Leland
- f) Ryan Mahtani

BEST NEW CAR DEALER

- a) Bay Chevrolet
- b) BMW of Mobile
- c) Joe Bullard
- d) Palmer's Toyota
- e) Springhill Toyota
- f) U-J Chevrolet

BEST USED CAR DEALER

- a) Hooney's Auto Sales, Inc.
- b) Keith Kingan Classic Cars
- c) LCM Motors
- d) MCD Motors, Inc.
- e) Southbay Auto Sales, LLC
- f) Walley's Auto Sales

BEST CPA

- a) Andy Cook
- b) BJ Gilbert
- c) Frank Brown
- d) John Bedsole
- e) Karen Simmons
- f) Ted Crabtree

BEST LANDSCAPER

- a) Bay Landscaping
- b) Lawn Pro
- c) Southern Style Landscape
- d) Sprinklers & More
- e) Turfmaster
- f) Zack Orrell

BEST CONTRACTOR/HOMEBUILDER

- a) Bo Wilder Contracting, Inc.
- b) Bryan Maisel Homes
- c) D. R. Horton
- d) Locklier Builders
- e) Peyton Harvill/PH Company
- f) RB Cunningham Builders

BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER

- a) Trini Bryant Interiors
- b) Deb Chisholm
- c) Augusta Tapia
- d) Pat O' Neal
- e) Mary Jo Matranga
- f) Randy Wilson

BEFORE

AFTER



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2016 NAPPIES

BEST HARDWARE STORE

- a) Springhill Ace Hardware
- b) Andrew's Ace Hardware
- c) Blankenship's Universal Supply
- d) Dawes Hardware
- e) Smith's Hardware
- f) Fairhope True Value Hardware

BEST PEST CONTROL

- a) Bugmaster
- b) Cook's Pest Control
- c) Ensec Pest & Lawn
- d) Kelly's Pest Control
- e) Knockout Pest & Termite
- f) Semmes Pest Control

BEST PET STORE

- a) B&B Pet Stop
- b) Bella and Bow's Pet Boutique
- c) Blankenships' Universal Supply
- d) Pet Haven
- e) PetSmart
- f) Pet Supplies Plus

BEST ANTIQUE STORE

- a) Antiques at the Loop
- b) BackFlash Antiques
- c) Cotton City Antique Mall
- d) Shop Around the Corner
- e) The Brothers Gallery
- f) To Arms Antiques

BEST MEN'S CLOTHING STORE

- a) D & K Suit Discounters
- b) Dillard's
- c) East Bay Clothiers
- d) G. Harvell Men's Clothier
- e) McCoy Outdoors
- f) Metzger's

BEST LINGERIE/NAUGHTY SHOP

- a) Gift Spot
- b) NT Video
- c) The Little Drawer
- d) Victoria's Secret

BEST WOMEN'S BOUTIQUE

- a) Christina Lynn's
- b) Debra's
- c) Lotus
- d) Metzger's
- e) Polish Boutique
- f) Zeal Boutique

BEST CLOTHING CONSIGNMENT STORE

- a) Abigail's Closet
- b) Back on the Rack
- c) Hertha's Mobile
- d) Plato's Closet
- e) Rave Reviews
- f) Yvonne's Resale Boutique

BEST DEPARTMENT STORE

- a) Belk
- b) Dillard's
- c) J.C. Penney
- d) Kohl's
- e) Stein Mart
- f) T.J. Maxx

BEST ACCESSORIES /AFFORDABLE JEWELRY

- a) Avril Walker
- b) Christina Lynn's
- c) Emmaleah Boutique
- d) Francesca's
- e) Knot Just Beads
- f) Versona

BEST FINE JEWELRY

- a) Friedman's Fine Jewelry
- b) Zundel's
- c) Claude Moore Jeweler
- d) Goldsteins
- e) Lou's Fine Jewelry
- f) Gold Art

BEST DRY CLEANERS

- a) Gulf City Cleaners
- b) Jaguar Cleaners
- c) Master Cleaners
- d) Paragon Dry Cleaners and Laundry
- e) Cottage & Springhill Cleaners
- f) Waite's Cleaners

BEST HOME CLEANING SERVICE

- a) Helping Hands- Michael Young
- b) Longleaf Chem-Dry
- c) Maids a la Mode
- d) Mandy's Cleaning Service
- e) The Maids
- f) Two Gals and a Mop

BEST STATIONERY STORE

- a) Gwin's Stationery
- b) It's Inviting!
- c) J.O. Acree Company, Inc.
- d) Paper Jubilee
- e) Soiree Signatures
- f) Viv-Vah-Chey Designs

BEST OUTDOORS STORE

- a) Academy Sports and Outdoors
- b) Alabama Outdoors
- c) Bass Pro Shop
- d) Field & Stream
- e) McCoy Outdoors
- f) Quint's Sporting Goods

BEST LOCAL PHARMACY

- a) Christopher Pharmacy
- b) Family Pharmacy Care
- c) McConaughy Drugs
- d) Midtown Pharmacy
- e) Semmes Pharmacy
- f) Springhill Pharmacy

BEST SHOE STORE

- a) Dillard's
- b) DSW Designer Shoe Warehouse
- c) Eva's Shoes
- d) Shoe Station
- e) Shoefly
- f) The Gallery Shoe Boutique

BEST GIFT SHOP

- a) A Little Shoppe
- b) Marcie N Me
- c) Meggie B's Gifts & More
- d) Seasons Consignment, Crafts & Gifts
- e) Treasures at GulfQuest
- f) Urban Emporium

BEST HOME FURNISHINGS STORE

- a) All Around The House
- b) Atchison Home
- c) Designer Collection
- d) J & J Furniture
- e) Sarah B Atchison
- f) Woman in the Moon

BEST FURNITURE CONSIGNMENT STORE

- a) Antiques at the Loop
- b) Divine Consignment
- c) High Cotton Consignments
- d) Interiors Now
- e) Kaglen's Resale
- f) Something Special Home Consignment

BEST VAPE SHOP

- a) Cloud 9 Vapes
- b) Deep South Vape Midtown
- c) Parlor Vapes
- d) The Vapor Hut
- e) Vapor Dreamz
- f) Vapors

BEST BANK OR CREDIT UNION

- a) Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union
- b) BB&T
- c) BBVA Compass
- d) New Horizon Credit Union
- e) Oakworth Capital Bank
- f) Regions Bank

BEST THRIFT STORE

- a) America's Thrift Store
- b) Curiosity Shop at Catholic Social Services
- c) Goodwill
- d) Open Doors Ministries Resale and Thrift Store
- e) Penelope's Closet
- f) Wilmer Hall Thrift Store

BEST TATOO ARTIST/SHOP

- a) Sean Herman - The Bell Rose
- b) Man O War Tattoo
- c) Joe Garza - Tattoo Town
- d) Greg Owens - Gold Tattoo and Design
- e) Exit 13
- f) AJ Ludlow - The Bell Rose

KIDS

BEST KIDS' CLOTHING STORE-NEW

- a) Carters
- b) GiGi & Jay's
- c) Kidz Klozet
- d) Little Monkey Toes
- e) The Holiday
- f) Tiny Town

BEST KIDS' CONSIGNMENT STORE

- a) Carousel Kids
- b) GiGi & Jay's
- c) Kidz Klozet
- d) Little Monkey Toes
- e) The Holiday
- f) Tiny Town

BEST KIDS' ROOM FURNISHINGS

- a) Barrows
- b) Just Baby Designs
- c) Polka Tot Designs
- d) Rooms 2 Go Kids
- e) Siegel's Baby's Room
- f) White House Antiques

BEST SUMMER CAMP

- a) Bayside Academy Summer Camp
- b) Broadway Bound @ Brandy Brown Studio
- c) Camp Beckwith
- d) Dayspring Baptist Church
- e) Graham's Elite Martial Arts
- f) Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center



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2016 NAPPIES

BEST DAYCARE

- a) Cottage Hill Christian Academy
- b) Christ United Methodist Church
- c) Dauphin Way Baptist CDC
- d) Nina Nicks Joseph CDC
- e) Spring Hill Baptist CDC
- f) Westminster Presbyterian Preschool

BEST PRESCHOOL

- a) ABC Kindergarten
- b) Azalea City Montessori
- c) Cottage Hill Christian Academy
- d) St. Paul's EEC
- e) St. Luke's Episcopal School
- f) Westminster Presbyterian Preschool

BEST MOTHER'S DAY OUT

- a) Ashland Place
- b) Christ United Methodist Church
- c) Our Savior MDO
- d) Spring Hill Presbyterian MDO
- e) St. Ignatius Catholic MDO
- f) St. Mary's MDO

MOST KID - FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

- a) Bishop's Southern Tradition
- b) Chick-Fil-A
- c) Chuck E. Cheese
- d) Hungry Owl
- e) Island Wing Company
- f) Moe's Southwest Grill

BEST BIRTHDAY PARTY PLACE

- a) Dauphin Island
- Sea Lab's Estuarium**
- b) GulfQuest
- c) House of Bounce
- d) Pete's Party Castle
- e) Pump It Up
- f) Spa Tea Da!

BEST PARK/PLAYGROUND

- a) Daphne Centennial Park
- b) Fairhope Park
- c) Langan Municipal Park
- d) Lavretta Park
- e) Medal of Honor Park
- f) Spanish Fort Town Center Park

MOST KID-FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD

- a) Village of Spring Hill
- b) Sky Ranch
- c) Rosswood
- d) Ridgefield
- e) Llanfair
- f) Jackson Heights

BEST KID LOCAL ATTRACTION

- a) Bellingrath Gardens and Home
- b) Eastern Shore Center Splash Pad
- c) Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- d) Gulf Coast Exploreum
- e) GulfQuest National Maritime Museum
- f) USS Alabama Battleship

BEST DANCE STUDIO

- a) CC Dance Studio and Company
- b) Debbie's School of Dance
- c) Mobile Ballet
- d) Sheffield School of the Dance
- e) The Brandy Brown Studio
- f) Turning Pointe Dance Academy

BEST PEDIATRIC DENTIST

- a) Dr. Gaines Thomas & Dr. Lauren Moore
- b) Dr. Maureen Baldy
- c) Dr. Trey Fellers
- d) Dr. Kelly Jones
- e) Dr. Stephen Greenleaf
- f) Dr. Marion B. McMurphy and Dr. Joel B. Welford

BEST ORTHODONTIST

- a) Dr. Brian Oliver
- b) Dr. James Donaghey
- c) Dr. Keith Harvey
- d) Dr. Rosalyn Salter, Hillcrest Orthodontics
- e) Dr. Todd Bennett
- f) Pickett Orthodontics

BEST PEDIATRICIAN

- a) Dr. Alfred Shearer
- b) Dr. Faye Roberts
- c) Dr. Jennifer Adair
- d) Dr. John Sands
- e) Dr. Matthew Cepeda
- f) Dr. Nancy Wood

BEST KID PHOTOGRAPHER

- a) Clara Mellown Photography
- b) Hannah Stinson Photography
- c) Janie Long Photography
- d) Laura Cantrell Photography
- e) Samantha Vickers Photography
- f) Sheree Parker Photography

BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

- a) Phillips Preparatory School
- b) E. R. Dickson Elementary School
- c) Eichold Mertz Magnet School
- d) Mary B. Austin Elementary School
- e) Old Shell Road Magnet
- f) Saraland City Schools

BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL

- a) Cottage Hill Christian Academy
- b) McGill-Toolen Catholic High School
- c) Saint Paul's Episcopal School
- d) St Mary's Catholic School
- e) St. Luke's Episcopal School
- f) UMS-Wright

COOLEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

- a) Bridget Goff Archer - O' Rourke Elementary
- b) Cathy Burdette - Council Traditional School
- c) Laura Curtis - Castlen Elementary
- d) Keith Tardibuono - Davis Elementary
- e) Rhonda Frost - Allentown Elementary
- f) Samantha Laubenthal - Chickasaw Elementary School

COOLEST MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

- a) Amy McGowan -Clark Shaw Magnet
- b) Danielle Taylor - Phillips Prep
- c) Donna Mackin - St. Paul's
- d) Kathleen Tonder - Semmes Middle
- e) Rosalie Hyatt - Grand Bay
- f) Tara Noel - Dunbar Magnet

COOLEST HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

- a) Gail Jones - St. Paul's
- b) Jeremiah Quattrone - Citronelle High School
- c) Julie Albrecht - St. Paul's
- d) Nathan Adams - B. C. Rain High School
- e) Sara LeCroy - Faith Academy
- f) Wendy Barnes - Faith Academy

CITY LIFE

BEST MOBILIAN EVER

- a) E.O. Wilson
- b) Eugene Walter
- c) Frank W. Boykin
- d) Hank Aaron
- e) Jimmy Buffett
- f) Joe Cain

BEST MOBILIAN RIGHT NOW

- a) Sean Hylton, Firefighter
- b) Mayor Sandy Stimpson
- c) Old Slac IV Mobile's Ambassador Wayne Dean
- d) The Man About Town, Raymond Weinschenker
- e) Jake Peavy
- f) Craig Roberts

MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELOR

- a) Braxton Gilbert
- b) Colton Bradford
- c) Eric Kersten
- d) Mike Scalese
- e) Nick Rayburn
- f) Ricky Havens

MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELORETTE

- a) Courtney McDonald
- b) Emi Bencsath
- c) Faith Ann Lowe
- d) Lindsey Stiegler
- e) Lizzy Williams
- f) Mackenzie Harrell

COOLEST NEIGHBORHOOD - MOBILE

- a) Delwood
- b) Jackson Heights
- c) Midtown
- d) Oakleigh Garden District
- e) Rosswood
- f) Village of Spring Hill

COOLEST NEIGHBORHOOD-ESHO

- a) Fruit and Nut Fairhope
- b) Lakewood
- c) Malbis
- d) Plantation Hills
- e) Spanish Fort Estates
- f) Timber Creek

BEST ANNUAL EVENT

- a) Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo
- b) Azalea Trail Run
- c) Dauphin Street Beer Festival
- d) Magic Christmas in Lights
- e) Mardi Gras
- f) The Greater Gulf State Fair

BEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

- a) Art Throwdown - Mobile Arts Council
- b) Junior League of Mobile Annual Fundraisers
- c) Fuse Project Dragon Boat Race
- d) Jake Peavy Foundation Charity Golf Classic
- e) Woofstock -Animal Rescue Foundation
- f) Little Black Dress - Ronald McDonald House



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2016 NAPPIES

BEST PLACE TO HOLD A RECEPTION/SPECIAL EVENT

- a) Azalea Manor
- b) Battle House Hotel
- c) Exchange 202
- d) GulfQuest
- e) The Pillars of Mobile
- f) The Venue at Dawes

BEST HOTEL

- a) The Grand Hotel
- b) The Battle House Hotel and Spa
- c) The Admiral Hotel
- d) Malaga Inn
- e) Hampton Inn
- f) Fort Conde Inn

BEST HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

- a) Baker High School
- b) Murphy High School
- c) John L. LeFlore High School
- d) Davidson High School
- e) McGill-Toolen Catholic High School
- f) Saraland High School

BEST MARDI GRAS PARADING SOCIETY

- a) Crewe of Columbus
- b) Infant Mystics
- c) Mystic Strippers Society
- d) Mystics of Time
- e) Order of Polka Dots
- f) Comic Cowboys

BEST MARDI GRAS MARCHING SOCIETY

- a) Dauphin Street Drunks
- b) Skeleton Krewe
- c) Society of Bums
- d) Wild Mauvillians

BEST MARDI GRAS BALL

- a) Infant Mystics
- b) Mystics of Time
- c) Order of Polka Dots
- d) Crewe of Columbus
- e) Mystic Strippers Society
- f) Fifty Funny Fellows

BEST GOLF COURSE

- a) Azalea City Golf Course
- b) Fairways Indoor Golf Club
- c) Heron Lakes Country Club
- d) Magnolia Grove
- e) Mobile Country Club
- f) Spring Hill College

COOLEST CHURCH OR HOUSE OF WORSHIP

- a) All Saints
- b) City Hope
- c) Dayspring Baptist
- d) Harvest Church
- e) Pathway Church
- f) Westminster Presbyterian

BEST SPIRITUAL LEADER

- a) David Mauldin
- b) Dr. Brett Burleson
- c) Fr. John Lynes
- d) Fr. Mark Neske
- e) Joey Turman
- f) Pastor Chris Farley

BEST PLACE TO TAKE OUT-OF-TOWNERS (ATTRACTION)

- a) Bellingrath Gardens and Home
- b) Breakout Mobile
- c) Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- d) GulfQuest
- e) Mobile Carnival Museum
- f) USS Alabama Battleship

BEST PLACE TO TAKE OUT-OF-TOWNERS (RESTAURANT)

- a) Bluegill
- b) Callaghan's Irish Social Club
- c) Dauphin's
- d) Dumbwaiter
- e) Felix's Fish Camp
- f) Wintzell's

BEST COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

- a) Spring Hill College
- b) University of Mobile
- c) University of South Alabama

BEST JUNIOR COLLEGE/TRADE/TECHNICAL SCHOOL

- a) ITT Tech
- b) Virginia College
- c) Blue Cliff Career College
- d) Faulkner State Community College
- e) Bishop State Community College
- f) Remington College

COOLEST APARTMENT COMPLEX-MOBILE

- a) Village at Midtown
- b) D'Iberville Apartments
- c) Marine Street Lofts
- d) Cypress Cove
- e) Hounds Run Apartments
- f) Yester Oaks

COOLEST APARTMENT COMPLEX-ESHO

- a) Audubon Park
- b) Bay Breeze Apartments
- c) The Vinings at Spanish Fort

BEST MOVIE THEATER

- a) Cobb Gulf Shores
- b) Crescent Theater
- c) Premiere Cinema 14 - Spanish Fort
- d) Regal Cinemas Mobile 18
- e) Wynnsong 16
- f) Gulf Coast Exploreum IMAX Theater

BEST LOCAL COMPANY TO WORK FOR

- a) FTZ Corp.
- b) Gulf Distributing
- c) GulfQuest
- d) Hargrove Engineers and Constructors
- e) Premier Medical Group
- f) Regions Bank

BEST BEACH RESORT/CONDO

- a) Caribe Resort
- b) Holiday Isle Dauphin Island
- c) Phoenix on the Bay
- d) Phoenix X
- e) The Beach Club
- f) Turquoise Place

MUSIC

BEST LOCAL BAND

- a) Infant Richard and the Delta Stones
- b) Mother Mojo
- c) Mulligan Brothers
- d) Paw Paw's Medicine Cabinet
- e) The Underhill Family Orchestra
- f) Turbo Crab

BEST NEW LOCAL BAND

- a) Bunch
- b) Coleman Mason Band
- c) Muscadine Bloodline
- d) Philo
- e) Silence Falls
- f) The Lizards

BEST COUNTRY BAND/PERFORMER

- a) Cary Laine
- b) Hannah McFarland
- c) Holli Mosley
- d) Last Call Rodeo
- e) Muscadine Bloodline
- f) Tim Kinsey

BEST METAL/UNDERGROUND BAND

- a) Black Titan
- b) Curse the Flesh
- c) Dread
- d) Gathering of Vultures
- e) Silence Falls
- f) The Hitchhikers

BEST BLUES BAND /ARTIST

- a) Jamell Richardson
- b) Johnny No
- c) Kristy Lee
- d) Lisa Mills
- e) Ric McNaughton Band
- f) The Lizards

BEST CLUB TO SEE LIVE MUSIC

- a) Alchemy Tavern
- b) Brickyard
- c) Callaghan's
- d) O'Daly's
- e) Soul Kitchen
- f) The Merry Widow

BEST OUTDOOR BAR TO SEE LIVE MUSIC

- a) Bluegill
- b) Cafe Del Rio
- c) Flora-Bama
- d) Hangout
- e) LuLu's
- f) The Frog Pond Blue Moon Farm

BEST VENUE TO SEE LIVE MUSIC (NON-BAR)

- a) IP Casino
- b) The Amphitheater at the Wharf
- c) The Frog Pond Blue Moon Farm
- d) The Listening Room
- e) The Saenger Theatre
- f) Wind Creek Casino

BEST SOLO MUSICIAN

- a) Eric Erdman
- b) Gregg Fells
- c) Ross Newell
- d) Ryan Balthrop
- e) Sarah Percy
- f) Tim Kinsey

BEST JAZZ MUSICIAN

- a) Blake Nolte
- b) Chip Herrington
- c) Gerry Gambino
- d) Justin Fobes
- e) Roman Street
- f) Theodore Arthur



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2016 NAPPIES

BEST HIP HOP ARTIST

- a) Beamin
- b) Bianca Clarke
- c) Elijah McCreary
- d) Eterniti
- e) Mr. 88

BEST MUSIC/RECORD STORE

- a) Andy's Music
- b) Bay Sound Records
- c) Dr. Music
- d) Guitar Center
- e) Mobile Records

BEST LOCAL RECORDING STUDIO

- a) Dauphin Street Sound
- b) Greenhouse Music Studio
- c) Grave Danger Productions
- d) Studio H2O
- e) 88 Records
- f) Fade Out Entertainment

BEST GUITAR PLAYER

- a) Corky Hughes
- b) Hunter Baldwin
- c) John Higdon
- d) Lee Yankie
- e) Phil Proctor
- f) Ric McNaughton

BEST AREA SINGER/VOICE

- a) Brock Cole
- b) Holli Mosley
- c) Laurie Anne Armour
- d) Symone French
- e) Tim Kinsey
- f) Yo Jonesy

BEST AREA DRUMMER

- a) Aaron O'Brien
- b) Josh McNaughton
- c) David White
- d) John Milham
- e) Tyler Goodwin
- f) Clay Bates

BEST AREA BASSIST

- a) Ben Leininger
- b) Brandon Whigham
- c) Chris Boling
- d) Christian Heiden
- e) Joshua Tifford
- f) Nick Normand

BEST PIANO PLAYER/KEYBOARDIST

- a) Chris Spies
- b) Gene Murrell
- c) John Anthony
- d) Patrick Ramsey
- e) Scott Morlock
- f) Andrew Ayers

BEST DRAG QUEEN PERFORMER

- a) Champagne Munroe
- b) Jawakatema Davenport
- c) Miss Cie
- d) Miss Loretta
- e) Venus Shante DaVis
- f) Zamareyah Dawn

BEST DJ (MIXIN', MASHIN' UP KIND)

- a) DJ Blayze
- b) DJ Johnny Boy
- c) DJ Lynch
- d) DJ MBEZZLE
- e) Tres Wiggins
- f) Wermzer

BEST AREA MUSIC FESTIVAL

- a) 1065 Music Festival
- b) Southsounds Music and Arts Festival
- c) Hangout Festival
- d) Dauphin Island Rodeo Weekend Music & Arts Festival

ARTS

BEST LOCAL PAINTER

- a) Amber Ivey Lane
- b) Ardith Goodwin
- c) Brad Robertson
- d) Devlin Wilson
- e) Julie Rhames
- f) Noelle Goodson

BEST LOCAL SCULPTOR

- a) April Livingston
- b) Bruce Larsen
- c) Casey Downing
- d) Frank Ledbetter
- e) Shawn Berdux
- f) Zach DePolo

BEST LOCAL GRAPHIC DESIGN ARTIST

- a) Amanda Prichard
- b) Andy Hayes
- c) Carl Norman
- d) Hadley Binion
- e) Katie Vogtner
- f) Tripp Gustin

BEST MIXED MEDIA ARTIST

- a) Shawn Berdux
- b) Matt Mateo Humphrey
- c) Julie Rhames
- d) Jami Leigh Carter
- e) Chris Cumbie
- f) Amber Ivey Lane

BEST ART GALLERY

- a) Amber Ivey Designs
- b) Artology
- c) Ashland Art Gallery
- d) Cathedral Square Gallery
- e) Innova Arts
- f) Spire

BEST MUSEUM

- a) Gulf Coast Exploreum
- b) GulfQuest Maritime Museum
- c) Historic Oakleigh House
- d) History Museum of Mobile
- e) Mobile Carnival Museum
- f) Mobile Museum of Art

BEST THEATER GROUP

- a) Chickasaw Community Theatre
- b) Joe Jefferson Playhouse
- c) Mobile Theatre Guild
- d) Playhouse in the Park
- e) Sunnyside Theatre
- f) Theater 98

BEST PLAY OR PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR

- a) Oklahoma! by CCT
- b) Avenue Q by JJP
- c) Lion King Jr - Sunnyside
- d) Little Shop of Horrors - JJP
- e) The Colored Museum - MTG
- f) Vanya, Sonia, Masha, & Spike - JJP

BEST LOCAL ACTOR

- a) Brandon M. Caten
- b) Brian Jackson
- c) Danielle Juzan
- d) Emily Ericson
- e) Lisa Costa
- f) Melanie Petithory

BEST ARTS EVENT

- a) Art Throwdown by Mobile Arts Council
- b) Art Walk LODA
- c) Fairhope Arts and Crafts Festival
- d) MMoA Night Market
- e) Mobile Opera Season
- f) Mobile Symphony Season

EATS AND DRINKS

BEST OVERALL RESTAURANT

- a) Dauphin's
- b) Dumbwaiter
- c) Felix's Fish Camp
- d) Kitchen on George
- e) NoJa
- f) Osman's

BEST LOCALLY OWNED RESTAURANT

- a) Ashland Midtown Pub
- b) Butch Cassidy's
- c) Dumbwaiter
- d) NoJa
- e) The Noble South
- f) Von's Bistro

BEST NEW RESTAURANT – FINE DINING

- a) Dauphin's
- b) Saisho
- c) Von's Bistro

BEST NEW RESTAURANT – CASUAL

- a) Bishop's Southern Tradition
- b) Cafe Del Rio
- c) Five Bar
- d) Pizzeria Delfina
- e) The Bone & Barrel
- f) The Galley at GulfQuest

BEST CHAIN RESTAURANT

- a) Bonefish Grill
- b) Carrabba's
- c) Chick-fil-A
- d) Half Shell Oyster House
- e) Mellow Mushroom
- f) Rock N Roll Sushi

BEST EASTERN SHORE RESTAURANT

- a) Sunflower Cafe Fairhope
- b) Old 27 Grill
- c) Thyme By the Bay
- d) The Ravenite Pizzeria
- e) Dragonfly
- f) Rock N Roll Sushi

BEST BEACH RESTAURANT

- a) Cobalt
- b) Cosmo's
- c) Fishers at Orange Beach Marina
- d) FloraBama Yacht Club
- e) Lulu's
- f) The Gulf

BEST CHEF

- a) Allie Henderson - Battlehouse Hotel
- b) Chris Rainosek - The Noble South
- c) Arwen Rice - Red or White
- d) Gillian Clark - Kitchen on George
- e) Derek Day - Delish Bakery & Eatery
- f) Troy Kline - Sunflower Cafe



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Best Anchor

Best Meteorologist

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Best Weekend TV News Team





2016 NAPPIES

BEST ATMOSPHERE

- a) Dauphin's
- b) Kitchen on George
- c) NoJa
- d) Pour Baby
- e) Red or White
- f) The Gulf

MOST INNOVATIVE MENU

- a) Dragonfly
- b) Dumbwaiter
- c) Kitchen on George
- d) Saisho
- e) The Sunflower Cafe - Fairhope
- f) Von's Bistro

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

- a) Boudreaux's
- b) Ralph & Kacoo's
- c) Sunset Pointe in Fairhope
- d) The Gulf
- e) The River Shack
- f) Thyme by the Bay

BEST SWEET TEA

- a) Bishop's Southern Tradition
- b) Chick-fil-A
- c) Delish Bakery & Eatery
- d) Foosackly's
- e) McAlister's
- f) Spot of Tea

BEST BISCUITS

- a) Biscuit King – Fairhope
- b) Bob's Downtown Diner
- c) Briquettes Steakhouse
- d) Dick Russell's Bar-B-Q
- e) Popeyes
- f) Warehouse Bakery & Donuts

BEST HOME COOKIN'/SOUL FOOD

- a) Delish Bakery & Eatery
- b) Judy's Place
- c) Mama's on Dauphin
- d) Mary's Southern Cooking
- e) The Sugar Kettle Café
- f) Time to Eat Country Diner

BEST SERVICE

- a) Felix's Fish Camp
- b) Fuego
- c) NoJa
- d) Ruth's Chris Steak House
- e) The Noble South
- f) Von's Bistro

BEST DESSERT

- a) Bake My Day
- b) Cream and Sugar Café
- c) Delish Desserts & Eatery
- d) Ruth's Chris Steak House
- e) Sally's Piece-of-Cake
- f) Simply Sweet Cupcake Boutique

BEST RESTAURANT WINE LIST

- a) Dauphin's
- b) Pour Baby
- c) Red or White
- d) Ruth's Chris Steak House
- e) The Trellis Room
- f) Union

BEST WINGS

- a) Baumhower's
- b) Buffalo Wild Wings
- c) Butch Cassidy's
- d) Heroes
- e) Island Wing Company
- f) Moe's BBQ

BEST CHICKEN FINGERS

- a) Bishop's Southern Tradition
- b) Butch Cassidy's
- c) Foosackly's
- d) PDQ
- e) Raising Cane's
- f) Zaxbys

BEST ICE CREAM/YOGURT/GELATO

- a) Cammie's Old Dutch
- b) Chill
- c) Cold Snap
- d) Frios
- e) Mr. Gene's Beans
- f) Serda's Coffee Shop

BEST LUNCH SPOT

- a) Café 219
- b) Chicken Salad Chick
- c) Delish Desserts & Eatery
- d) Panini Pete's
- e) Regina's Kitchen
- f) Tropical Smoothie Café

BEST EASTERN SHORE LUNCH SPOT

- a) Dragonfly
- b) Panini Pete's
- c) Rosie's Grill
- d) The Sunflower Cafe Fairhope
- e) Thyme by the Bay
- f) Warehouse Bakery & Donuts

BEST WINE/GOURMET SHOP

- a) Cottage Hill Package
- b) Domke Market
- c) Firehouse Wine Bar
- d) Pour Baby
- e) Red or White
- f) Southern Napa

BEST BEER SELECTION-RETAIL

- a) Bebo's Springhill Market
- b) Cottage Hill Package
- c) Domke Market
- d) Greer's
- e) Rouse's
- f) Whole Foods

BEST ANNUAL FOOD EVENT OR COOK-OFF

- a) American Cancer Society Chili Cook Off
- b) Bay Bites Food Truck Festival
- c) Dauphin Island Gumbo Festival
- d) Downtown Cajun Cook Off
- e) Fairhope Rotary Steak Cook Off
- f) Feeding the Gulf Coast's Annual Chef Challenge

BEST FOOD TRUCK

- a) Smokin' Gringos
- b) Von's Bistro
- c) Grits and Grub
- d) Geaux Boy
- e) Will Hughes
- f) Bacon My Day

BEST GUMBO

- a) Cream & Sugar Cafe
- b) Felix's Fish Camp
- c) Gumbo Shack
- d) Rosie's Grill
- e) The Seafood House
- f) Wintzell's

BEST PO BOY

- a) Boiling Pot
- b) Half Shell Oyster House
- c) Kraver's
- d) Market by the Bay
- e) R & R Seafood
- f) The Galley at GulfQuest

BEST SUSHI

- a) Bamboo Fusion
- b) Chef Sake
- c) Fuji San
- d) Liquid Sushi Lounge
- e) Master Joes, Fairhope
- f) Rock N Roll Sushi

BEST BAKERY

- a) Bake My Day
- b) ellenJay Stylish Events & Sweets
- c) Flour Girls
- d) Pollman's
- e) Sally's Piece-A-Cake
- f) Sugar Rush

BEST WEDDING CAKES

- a) Cakes by Judi
- b) Couture Cakes
- c) Pollman's
- d) Sally's Piece-a-Cake
- e) Simply Sweet Cupcake Boutique
- f) The Pastry Shop

BEST CATERER

- a) Bay Gourmet
- b) Chris & Carla's Catering
- c) Chris Raley with Banana Docks Catering
- d) Georgia Rousso's Catering
- e) Naman's Catering
- f) Tyner's Catering

BEST BURGER

- a) Butch Cassidy's
- b) Callaghan's
- c) Five Guys
- d) LoDa Bier Garten
- e) Mugshots Grill & Bar
- f) Old 27 Grill

BEST STEAK

- a) Briquettes Steakhouse
- b) Longhorn Steak House
- c) Osman's
- d) Outback
- e) Ruth's Chris
- f) Union

BEST SEAFOOD

- a) Bluegill
- b) Felix's Fish Camp
- c) Half Shell Oyster House
- d) Lighthouse Restaurant
- e) R & R Seafood
- f) Wintzell's

BEST BRUNCH

- a) Ashland Midtown Pub
- b) The Blind Mule
- c) Cafe 615
- d) Callaghan's
- e) Kitchen on George
- f) Rosie's Grill



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BEST ETHNIC RESTAURANT

- a) 7 Spice Grocery & Grill
- b) Benjas Thai and Sushi
- c) Jerusalem Cafe
- d) Mediterranean Sandwich Co.
- e) Ollie's
- f) Yak Kathmandu Kitchen

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

- a) La Cocina
- b) Fuego
- c) Taqueria Mexico
- d) San Miguel's Hacienda
- e) Los Rancheros
- f) Cafe Del Rio

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

- a) Cousin Vinny's/Guido's
- b) Gambino's
- c) Mirko's
- d) Pizzeria Delfina
- e) Roma Cafe
- f) Via Emilia'

BEST PIZZA

- a) Ashland Midtown Pub
- b) Buck's Pizza
- c) Mellow Mushroom
- d) Pizzeria Delfina
- e) Ravenite Pizzeria
- f) Red or White

BEST COFFEE HOUSE

- a) Carpe Diem
- b) Cream and Sugar
- c) Moka's Coffee House
- d) Redbar Espresso & Market
- e) Satori
- f) Serda's Coffee Company

BEST EASTERN SHORE COFFEE-HOUSE

- a) Latte Da
- b) Mr. Gene's Beans
- c) Soul Caffeine
- d) The Coffee Loft
- e) The Fairhope Coffee Company

BEST LOCAL GROCERY STORE

- a) Cain's Piggly Wiggly
- b) Fairhope Health Foods
- c) Food 4 Less
- d) Greer's
- e) Old Shell Market
- f) Virginia's Health Foods

BEST GROCERY CHAIN

- a) Costco
- b) Publix
- c) Rouse's
- d) Super Target
- e) Walmart Neighborhood Market
- f) Winn-Dixie

BEST GOURMET GROCERY

- a) Domke Market
- b) Food Pak
- c) Fresh Market
- d) Olivella
- e) Publix
- f) Whole Foods

BEST PLACE TO GET LOCAL PRODUCE/FOODS-MOBILE

- a) Lil Brian's Produce
- b) Market on the Square
- c) Old Shell Market
- d) Saraland Produce
- e) Ted & Nancy's
- f) Victory Teaching Farm

BEST PLACE TO GET LOCAL PRODUCE/FOODS-BALDWIN

- a) Allegri's Farm Market
- b) Bee Natural Organic Farm
- c) Burris Farm Market
- d) Fairhope Health Foods
- e) Hazel's Market
- f) Windmill Market

BEST BARBECUE RESTAURANT

- a) Brick Pit
- b) Cotton State BBQ
- c) Dreamland
- d) Meat Boss
- e) Moe's BBQ
- f) Saucy Q

BEST BARBECUE SAUCE

- a) Brick Pit
- b) Cotton State BBQ
- c) Dick Russell's
- d) Dreamland
- e) Meat Boss
- f) Moe's BBQ

BEST RIBS

- a) Brick Pit
- b) Cotton State BBQ
- c) Dreamland BBQ
- d) J Rogers BBQ
- e) Meat Boss
- f) Moe's BBQ

BEST RAW OYSTERS

- a) Bluegill
- b) Felix's Fish Camp
- c) Gumbo Shack
- d) Half Shell Oyster House
- e) Ralph and Kacoo's
- f) Wintzell's

BEST TAKE AND BAKE

- a) Bay Gourmet
- b) Clark's Kitchen
- c) Dream Dinners
- d) Papa Murphy's
- e) Rae's Kitchen & Catering
- f) The Bean & Bistro

BEST CUPCAKE

- a) ellenJay Stylish Events & Sweets
- b) Flour Girls
- c) Pollman's
- d) Sally's Piece-A-Cake
- e) Simply Sweet Cupcake Boutique
- f) Twist Cupcakes

BEST SEAFOOD MARKET

- a) Billy's Bon Secour
- b) Lad & Dad's
- c) Market by the Bay
- d) Mudbugs at the Loop
- e) Rouses
- f) Southern Fish & Oyster

BEST DRUNK FOOD

- a) Downtown Hot Dog Stand
- b) Foosackly's
- c) Krystal
- d) LoDa Bier Garten
- e) Mediterranean Sandwich Shop
- f) Waffle House

BEST HANGOVER FOOD

- a) Ashland Midtown Pub
- b) Callaghan's
- c) Foosackly's
- d) Old 27 Grill
- e) Ravenite Pizzeria
- f) Waffle House

MEDIA

FAVORITE RADIO STATION FM

- a) FM Talk 106.5
- b) WABD - 97.5
- c) WBLX 92.9
- d) WHIL-FM 91.3
- e) WKSJ 94.9
- f) WZEW 92.1

FAVORITE RADIO STATION AM

- a) WTKD - 1480
- b) WNTM - 710
- c) WNGL Archangel Radio 1410

BEST LOCAL DJ

- a) Gene Murrell - WZEW
- b) John Marty WABD
- c) Matt McCoy - 107.3 KISSFM
- d) Mystic Marge - WZEW
- e) Nick at Nite - WBLX
- f) Pablo - WZEW

BEST DJ TEAM

- a) Dan & Shelby - WKSJ
- b) Matt McCoy and Gossip Greg - 107.3 KISSFM
- c) Sean & Wayne - FM TALK106.5
- d) TLC in the Morning - Tim & LeeAnn Camp - WZEW - 92.1

BEST MORNING SHOW/DJ

- a) 95KSJ Breakfast Club - Dan & Shelby - WKSJ
- b) John in the Morning - WABD
- c) Mobile Mornings with Sean Sullivan and Wayne Gardner - FM TALK
- d) Opening Kickoff with Mark Heim and Lee Shirvanian - WNSP
- e) TLC in the Morning - WZEW

DJ WHOSE VOICE LEADS YOU TO BELIEVE YOU MAY WANT TO SEE HIM NAKED

- a) Colton Bradford - 107.3 KISSFM
- b) Gene Murrell - WZEW
- c) Gossip GREGG - 107.3 KISSFM
- d) Matt McCoy - 107.3 KISSFM
- e) Shirtless Tony - WZEW
- f) Uncle Henry - WNTM

DJ WHOSE VOICE LEADS YOU TO BELIEVE YOU MAY WANT TO SEE HER NAKED

- a) Mystic Marge - WZEW
- b) Shelby Mitchell - WKSJ
- c) Jolene Roxbury - FM TALK 106.5
- d) LeeAnn Camp - WZEW
- e) Aly - TK 101

BEST TALK RADIO HOST/SHOW

- a) Jolene Roxbury - FM TALK 106.5
- b) Plain Gardening Bill Finch - FM Talk 106.5
- c) Sean Sullivan and Wayne Gardner - FM Talk 106.5
- d) Sip & Chew - Mike Bailey and Stuart Reb Donald - FM Talk 106.5
- e) Today's Homeowner with Danny Lipford - FM Talk 106.5
- f) Uncle Henry - WNTM

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BEST SPORTS RADIO HOST/SHOW

- a) John Raciatti Golf Show - WNSP
- b) Dan Patrick Show - WNSP
- c) Opening Kickoff with Mark Heim and Lee Shirvanian - WNSP
- d) Paul Finebaum - FM Talk 106.5
- e) Sports Drive with Randy Kennedy and Greg Stephenson - WNSP
- f) Tee Time on the Gulf Coast with Randy Burgan and Danny Spybey - FM TALK 106.5

BEST LOCAL EVENING TV NEWSCAST

- a) WPMI 15
- b) WKRG 5
- c) WALA FOX 10

BEST LOCAL MORNING TV NEWS-CAST

- a) WPMI 15
- b) WKRG 5
- c) WALA FOX 10

BEST ANCHOR

- a) Bob Grip - WALA
- b) Darwin Singleton - WPMI
- c) Devon Walsh - WKRG
- d) Greg Peterson - WPMI
- e) Mel Showers - WKRG
- f) Sarah Wall - WALA

BEST METEOROLOGIST

- a) Alan Sealls - WKRG
- b) Chasity Byrd WALA
- c) Jason Smith WALA
- d) John Nodar WKRG
- e) Kelly Foster WPMI
- f) Michael White WALA

BEST TV INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

- a) Renee Dials - WALA
- b) Peter Albrecht - WKRG
- c) Emily DeVoe - WKRG
- d) Katie Weis - WALA
- e) Christian Jennings - WPMI
- f) Andrea Ramey - WPMI

BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

- a) Lance Crawford - WPMI
- b) Michael Brannon - WALA
- c) Randy Patrick - WKRG

BEST WEEKEND TV NEWS TEAM

- a) WPMI 15
- b) WKRG 5
- c) WALA FOX 10

HOTTEST LOCAL TV NEWSMAN

- a) Michael White - WALA
- b) Michael Brannon - WALA
- c) Lee Peck - WALA
- d) Jason Smith - WALA
- e) Greg Peterson - WPMI
- f) Darwin Singleton - WPMI

HOTTEST LOCAL TV NEWSWOMAN

- a) Kelly Foster - WPMI
- b) Devon Walsh - WKRG
- c) Lenise Ligon - WALA
- d) Kelly Jones - WPMI
- e) Emily DeVoe - WKRG
- f) Devan Coffaro - WALA

FAVORITE LAGNIAPPE WRITER

- a) Andy MacDonald, Cuisine
- b) Dale Liesch, Reporter
- c) Eric Mann, Reporter
- d) Jason Johnson, Reporter
- e) Jeff Poor, Beltway Beat
- f) Kevin Lee, Artifice

FAVORITE LAGNIAPPE COVER STORY

- a) "A Deadly Mix" by Dale Liesch
- b) "Bitter Pill" by Greenberry Taylor
- c) "Diverse City" by Lagniappe Staff
- d) "Exposed" by Jason Johnson
- e) "Gloves Off" by Gabriel Tynes and Dale Liesch
- f) "Restoration at Risk" by Dale Liesch

FAVORITE LAGNIAPPE COVER IMAGE

- a) "Baldwin Takes Flight" by Laura Rasmussen
- b) "Bitter Pill" by Dan Anderson
- c) "Eviction Notice" by Dan Anderson
- d) "Exposed" by Dan Anderson
- e) "Rorschach" by Laura Rasmussen
- f) "Triple Trouble" by Laura Rasmussen

FAVORITE AL.COM CONTENT CREATOR

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- b) J.D. Crowe
- c) John Archibald
- d) John Sharp
- e) Lawrence Specker
- f) Michelle Irvin

FAVORITE GLOSSY MAGAZINE

- a) Access
- b) Alabama
- c) Exalte'
- d) Mobile Bay Monthly
- e) Mobile Bay Parents
- f) Mobile Mask

FAVORITE LOCAL OR STATE WEB-SITE/BLOG

- a) Mobile Mask
- b) Toulouse & Tonic
- c) Alabama Reporter
- d) Yellowhammer News
- e) Mod Mobilian
- f) Drick's Rambling Café

BEST LOCAL TV AD

- a) David J. Maloney
- b) Joe Bullard
- c) Mike Slocumb "Alabama Hammer"
- d) Mullinax with AJ McCarron
- e) Roberts Brothers "It's Happening"
- f) Visit Mobile: Born to Celebrate

POLITICOS

HARDEST-WORKING ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIAL - CITY OF MOBILE

- a) Colby Cooper, Chief of Staff
- b) Dianne Irby, Executive Director of Planning and Development
- c) Jeff Carter, Executive Director Bloomberg I-Team
- d) Mayor Sandy Stimpson
- e) Nathan Emmorey, Municipal Court Administrator
- f) Police Chief James Barber

HARDEST-WORKING MOBILE CITY COUNCIL PERSON

- a) Bess Rich
- b) Gina Gregory
- c) Levon Manzie

HARDEST-WORKING ELECTED OFFICIAL-MOBILE COUNTY

- a) Sheriff Sam Cochran
- b) Judge George Hardesty
- c) District Attorney Ashley Rich
- d) County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood
- e) County Commissioner Jerry Carl
- f) County Commissioner Connie Hudson

HARDEST-WORKING ELECTED CITY OFFICIAL-EASTERN SHORE

- a) Dane Haygood, Daphne Mayor
- b) Jack Burrell, Fairhope, Fairhope City Council
- c) John Lake, Daphne City Council
- d) Kevin Boone, Fairhope City Council
- e) Mike McMillan, Spanish Fort Mayor
- f) Tim Kant, Fairhope Mayor

HARDEST-WORKING ELECTED CITY OFFICIAL-BALDWIN COUNTY

- a) Sheriff Huey Hoss Mack
- b) County Commissioner Chris Elliott
- c) County Commissioner Tucker Dorsey
- d) Baldwin County School Board member Cecil Christenberry
- e) Baldwin County School Board member David Cox

HARDEST-WORKING LOCAL STATE LEGISLATOR

- a) Rep. Chris Pringle
- b) Rep. Margie Wilcox
- c) Rep. Rusty Glover
- d) Rep. David Sessions
- e) Sen. Bill Hightower
- f) Sen. Vivian Figures

MOST ETHICALLY CHALLENGED STATE LEADER

- a) Gov. Robert Bentley
- b) Judge Roy Moore
- c) Speaker Mike Hubbard

Paper ballots must be mailed to P.O. Box 3003 Mobile, AL 36652 and postmarked by June 29, 2016. Or dropped off by noon at the Lagniappe office at 1100B Dauphin St. Mobile, AL 36604 on June 29, 2016. For official rules, visit votenappies2016.com

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Makalani Theatre's black comedy is effective and encompassing

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



Benjamin Franklin's pair of life certainties spark Lucas Hnath's "Death Tax" into existence on stage, showing there's an unmentioned assurance to join the proverbial pair. Unfortunately that other certainty would be "loquacious young playwrights."

The story stems from a frail dowager's belief her daughter has designed a hastened demise to land a larger inheritance. The older woman shovels funds to her nursing home attendant to thwart any schemes and the tale of mirrored perspectives is afoot.

Its only flaw lies not in execution — the play is well worth the time — but in a few stretches that ask characters to stop actual conversation while one climbs a soapbox. It's not abundant, just present.

Hnath's 2012 work is the latest offering from Mobile's most adventurous and fresh-faced theatrical group, Makalani Theatre Ensemble. It's the third production from the unit founded by then-University of South Alabama drama instructors Keone Fuqua and Christopher Peck.

Each year has revealed growth. Their 2014 production of "Brilliant Traces" was a two-person affair set in a snowbound wilderness cabin.

In 2015, they staged the more layered "Art." The three-man work revealed the shifting dynamics of friendship over time as characters roamed a chic urban apartment.

This new play increases the cast by one yet again, and splays out the interpersonal dynamics and lengthens the time span immensely. Rather than a pair or trio of acts, the story unfolds over five scenes.

The black-box layout has changed from the in-the-round of previous years to a thrust stage set-up, but it still seats about 50. The stage dressing is minimal: a hospital bed on one side with a desk and chair on the other.

"Death Tax" will run this weekend only, June 2-5. Evening

curtain is at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$15, \$13 for students and group rates are available. For more information, call 615-440-3767 or email MakalaniTheatreEnsemble@gmail.com. You can also find their Facebook page and follow a link for online sales.

The technical rehearsal Artifice viewed ran closer to the two-hour mark but that was likely due to frequent calls for lines from some of the cast. Hey, we said it was wordy in a couple of spots. Director Christopher Peck wants it pared to a roughly 90-minute run time by premiere.

As it opens, the bed is occupied by Maxine, played by Jean Galloway — yes, the same Jean Galloway who headed the Mobile Arts Council for nearly two decades. As Ravyn Otis buzzes about the room as Maxine's Haitian-born nurse, Tina, the patient spins a yarn about a greedy daughter and a change in estate tax allotments that takes place during the new year. She is convinced her offspring has an evil nature and has recruited Tina to her cause.

"I say murder, they say dementia," Maxine complained.

Tina mentions her own rocky background, a son left behind in the islands and her desire to liberate him. After Maxine offers Tina nearly a quarter-million dollars to keep her alive past New Year's Eve, the nurse's ethics take a backseat.

As the play continues, Tina interacts with a supervisor, Todd, who obviously bears unrequited feelings for her following a long-past coupling. Played by Howard Johnson, the boss dances on the thin ground between sexual harassment and complicity in a scheme certainly unethical if not outright illegal.

When Tina finally meets with the daughter, played by Ashley Robertson, all previous dynamics disappear. Roles and motivations reverse, complications arise.

So does the dramatic quality. The third scene was easily the apex of this night's version, as the chemistry between Otis and

Robertson seemed natural and innate.

Otis was strong and consistent but this scene stood out. Perhaps it helped that no calls for lines interceded but it was hard to miss Robertson's ability to truly inhabit her character and the nuance she exhibited from beginning to end. Nothing seemed self-conscious and both actors' work in this scene was one of the better things Artifice has witnessed on a Mobile stage.

For Johnson, the fourth scene involving a raw confrontation between Todd and Tina was his high point. Even through called lines, his emotional focus was unfailing. It seemed the more intense Todd grew, the better Johnson became.

The last scene was easily Galloway's best. She lifted the first portion onto her shoulders and carried it with comedic aplomb in welcome relief against much of the earlier drama. Peck said he relished that aspect as well.

Hnath's play is often described as a black comedy, though a good deal of that aspect was underplayed here. Clips from other versions show the subtle ways tiny variations of the same script with timing and mannerism can imbue more laughs, though some of it was bypassed here. Or perhaps it just escaped this viewer.

Ultimately the heft of the work lies in the subtlety of perspective. Lines are launched in one scene, then echoed in another by a new character with entirely different effect and meaning. Our perceptions of characters are shattered and rebuilt scene to scene.

And we see bits of ourselves in all of them. Forlorn lovers, carriers of regret, misunderstood children, parents petrified by abandonment and irrelevance, overwhelmed relatives, aging participants in life's absurdities, afraid to see it slip away no matter how besieged we feel.

We're all there in ways that feel haunting. In one way or another, Maxine awaits us all.

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Native Mobile sculptor dies in crash

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



Sculptor Joanna Campbell Blake, a Mobile native and Auburn University alumnus who helped create several major monuments, died in a motorcycle wreck in Italy on May 22. Blake worked for Maryland-based Kaskey Studio Inc., where she contributed to numerous large-scale projects, including the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Blake was on a trip to Italy celebrating her 39th birthday when the multi-vehicle accident occurred.

A 1995 Theodore High School graduate, Blake earned a bachelor's in fine arts from Auburn in 1999. Though she began with a concentration in painting, she discovered a gift for sculpture while in college.

Blake returned to campus when she sculpted panels for the College of Science and Mathematics Building and the Chemistry and Biology Building. She also worked on the Pedestrian Portal Project for her alma mater.

Blake is survived by her husband, Ike Blake; her 5-year-old daughter, Myra; a brother, Alan Campbell; and her parents, Alan and Joleen Campbell.

JJP fundraiser takes to the sheets

The Joe Jefferson Players will premiere their latest musical comedy, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," June 10-26. However, they're giving fans a chance to chip in on the funds and fun with good, old-fashioned Roman hedonism right before the play opens.

On June 3, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., The Merry Widow (51 S. Conception St.) will play host to a Toga Karaoke Party. All proceeds from the \$5 cover charge benefit the historic playhouse in Midtown.

DJ Jamey Ward promises to deliver karaoke fit for Apollo himself. There will be Bacchanalian drink specials for everyone adorned in their best togas.

For more information, check out the event's Facebook page.

Classes added to MMoA summer curriculum

Mobile Museum of Art has become a locus for learning in Mobile, and new courses added to its summer curriculum feature a pair of fun skills. One can enhance your digital presence while the other might prove handy in enhancing your physical surroundings. Both classes are to be taught by Todd Duran, professor of art and design at Spring Hill College and Faulkner State Community College.

If you're an admirer of Alexander Calder's mobiles, learn how to make your own version of these delicately balanced wire and metal sculptures using cans, wire and monofilament. Class takes place July 16 and 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$175 for nonmembers, \$150 for members.

The other class is aimed at teaching participants how to use traditional art techniques such as paint, chalk and collage along with a smartphone or tablet to enhance social media posts and boost following. The class meets July 30 and 31, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$125 for non-members, \$100 for members.

For information on registration, call 251-208-5205 or visit mobilemuseumofart.com.

June Learning Lunch features marriage plaintiffs

The History Museum of Mobile's latest Learning Lunch will focus on a famous pair of locals who have made national news in the last few years. On Wednesday, June 8, at noon, Cari Searcy and Kimberly McKeand will discuss their story in "Our Fight for

Family Equality in Alabama."

Videographer Searcy and marketing manager McKeand, along with their 9-year-old son, filed a lawsuit last year challenging Alabama's ban on same-sex marriage. In January 2015, Federal Judge Callie Granade ruled in their favor, touching off a battle in probate courts across the state.

The event is free and guests are asked to bring their own lunch. Complimentary beverages will be provided.

For more information on the Learning Lunch series, call the museum at 251-208-7510 to speak with Jennifer Fondren, curator of education, or contact her by email at fondrenj@historymuseumofmobile.com.

MMoA turns sound to written word

As part of the exhibition of Janet Cardiff's "Forty-Part Motet," the Mobile Museum of Art (4850 Museum Drive) is exploring the sound installation's effect through usage of varied artistic media. This takes a turn toward the literary on Thursday, June 9, at 7 p.m. with "Reverberations."

For the Thursday evening program in the facility's Larkins Auditorium, a group of local poets, playwrights and writers of nonfiction and fiction have been invited to "climb inside the music" and write in response, elaboration or in any way they are inspired. They will be assembled for a public reading of their work.

Writers scheduled include poet Vernon Fowlkes, local author Janet Nodar, playwright and author Thomas Perez, journalist Lawrence Specker and Alabama Poet Laureate Emeritus Sue Walker. Lagniappe arts editor Kevin Lee will moderate.

A \$10 donation is requested at the door. Beer and wine will be available by donation.

For more information, call Elizabeth Elliott at 251-208-5200.

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Photo | facebook.com/thefloridacrickets

The Krickets are Melissa Bowman, Emily Stuckey, Lauren Spring and Katrina Kolb.

Callaghan's hosts Krickets album release

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



he power of music has pulled a quartet of women together from across the Gulf Coast. The Krickets' lineup features Melissa Bowman of Panama City, Florida; Lauren Spring of Port St. Joe, Florida; Emily Stuckey of Fairhope and Katrina Kolb of Mobile. All four have established reputations with their respective projects. Kolb is the bassist for Mobile bluegrass masters Fat Man Squeeze. Spring and Stuckey are known for their solo work. Bowman has earned experience performing alongside her husband in the Bo Spring Band.

In The Krickets, Kolb remains a constant on her upright bass while the rest of the group trade a variety of instruments, from the fiddle to the mandolin. While their mix of classic and modern folk/Americana, highlighted by beautiful harmonies, is extremely refreshing, this aspect is matched by their all-female lineup, a rarity on the Gulf Coast.

"I don't know if there's a competition or something, or women just not getting along," Bowman said. "I think most men would be like, 'Oh god, it's an all-girl band. Can you imagine what goes on in that band?' It's nice to have girls who are willing to take a step back and not be in the lime-light the whole time." Spring and Bowman laid the groundwork for The Krickets, coming together to perform a benefit for the Sacred Heart Cricket Fund. After spending so much time performing in her husband's band, Spring found the collaboration with Bowman to be new and exciting. Spring cites Bowman's attitude toward their duo to be one of the most positive aspects of the pairing. Bowman created a safe environment for Spring to experiment in an unfamiliar musical capacity, which helped her evolve as a musician.

"I just got so much out of it, because it was a very safe place for me to be good or bad," Spring said. "It didn't matter. It was the joy of the harmony and this platform where we could get better and work at your craft. Her willingness to let me get up there is awesome. If she hadn't created such a safe environment for my fragile ego, it wouldn't have worked."

As time passed, Spring and Bowman decided to add to their ranks. Bowman was familiar with Stuckey's performances and recruited her string and harmonic talents to the lineup. Bowman also brought on Kolb, whose bass added a new dynamic to their sound. Stuckey says her participation in The Krickets allowed her to journey into new musical worlds that were both unfamiliar and glorious.

"When Melissa and I were playing together, I could harmonize," Stuckey said. "I didn't really know how to. When the three of us got together, it blended. Katrina adding the bass to keep the groove and everything, that really was like, 'Wow! We got something special.'"

The quartet busied themselves creating songs for what would become their fittingly titled album, "Spanish Moss Sirens." The songwriters of the group brought what Bowman describes as the "bones" of a song to their rehearsals. For example, the song "Sweet Home" was composed

by Stuckey but morphed into its final state after the group put it through a process they refer to as "Krickifying."

As they listened to each other's respective songs, each member would imagine what could be added to it. Ultimately, an individual's composition would become a group effort, with each member filling any arrangement gaps that appeared. According to Spring, Kolb completed the musical mix by adding her bass "groove."

"It's been amazing to me and very inspiring," Spring said. "I had only written one of my songs when we came to the table for this album. Emily had two of them written. Everybody has to try dif-

"He did not want us to sound produced and overproduced or lose this weird organic thing going on," Spring said. "We may not be the most polished musicians, but once we are together we can really create some magic. He recognized that from the start."

The final cut of "Spanish Moss Sirens" proves both the power of Tanner's ear as well as the power of The Krickets' music. In a time where Americana has almost become cliché, The Krickets are revitalizing it. Throughout the album, the group expertly balances both modern and classic influences. "Guinevere" is a classic country ballad highlighted by flawless harmonies. With its low-

“As they listened to each other's respective songs, each member would imagine what could be added to it. Ultimately, an individual's composition would become a group effort, with each member filling any arrangement gaps that appeared.”

ferent parts. It's been such a generous and giving songwriting process, and you have these tools to work with to hear what this song could be."

When they finished compiling and shaping songs, The Krickets decided to take the next step and traveled to Sun Drop Sound in Florence to record with producer/engineer Ben Tanner. In addition to being a member of Alabama Shakes, Tanner has established a reputation for being one of Alabama's most sought-after producers.

He was the perfect match for The Krickets. Even though their vocals were overdubbed, Tanner insisted the group maintain a raw sound, so they performed the instrumental work live in the studio. Tanner also recognized the power in numbers when it came to their vocals, recording their harmonies as a group.

end bass and steady organ, the haunting "Song of the Spanish Moss Sirens" is one of the most powerful songs on the album. "To and Fro" mixes down-home sounds with a modern drive and just enough vocal reverb to provide a dreamlike vibe. While each song has its own personality, the group collaboration is obvious — there's an aural bond that's preserved from beginning to end.

With that said, The Krickets' show at Callaghan's may be one of the few times the public will get to catch the band until the fall. After Callaghan's, The Krickets will open for The Mulligan Brothers in Santa Rosa Beach on Saturday, June 11. Afterwards Stuckey will have to take a break for another big event, the birth of her child. However, this will give The Krickets a few months to plan their future.

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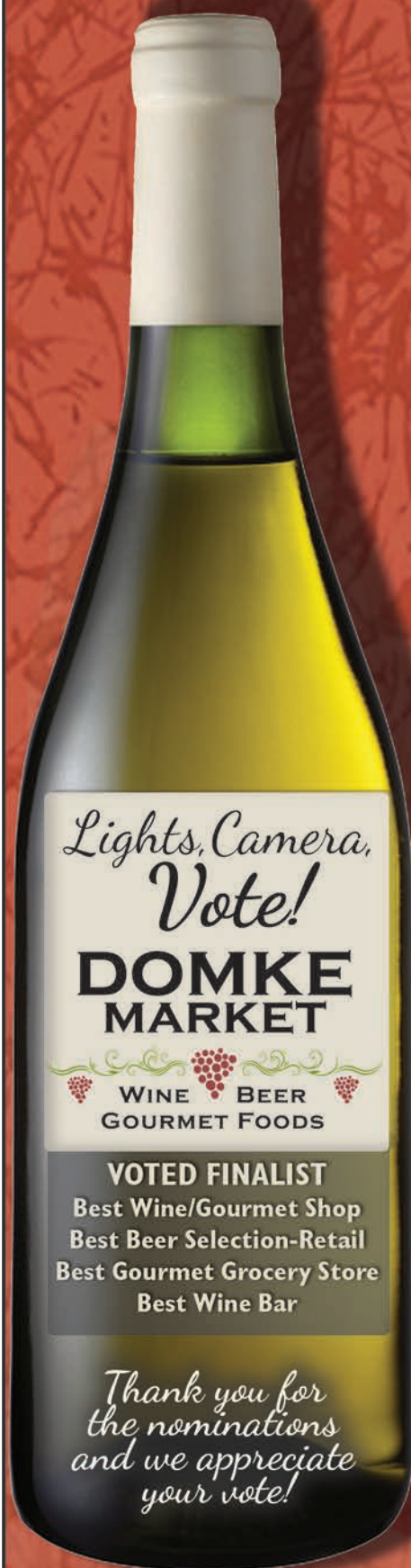
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BY STEPHEN CENTANNI/MUSIC EDITOR
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■ Photo | Kyle Cassidy/wikimedia.org | “Weird Al” Yankovic

Get weird

Over the past century, novelty music has flourished. Comedic musicians such as Spike Jones and Stan “The Man” Freberg specialized in musical parodies of popular songs. Such icons inspired a young “Weird Al” Yankovic. While still in high school, he released his debut single, “Belvedere Cruisin’,” through the novelty-centric radio program “The Dr. Demento Show.” Yankovic had found his calling.

As he entered California Polytechnic, Yankovic began to establish his reputation as music history’s most prolific parody artist. Songs such as “My Bologna” (The Knack’s “My Sharona”) and “Another One Rides the Bus” (Queen’s “Another One Bites the Dust”) collected a cult following of novelty-philes. Yankovic jumped into the mainstream with his break-out hit “Eat It” (Michael Jackson’s “Beat It”).

In the following years, Yankovic proved no song was off limits with a plethora of comedic parodies from across musical genres. This success allowed him to appear in numerous films and television shows, including “UHF” and “The Weird Al Show.” Fans of IFC’s “Comedy Bang! Bang!” can expect to see Yankovic taking over bandleader and co-host duties.

Yankovic’s live performances are just as hilarious and entertaining as his music. This talented artist is known for multiple costume changes that can sometimes include his fat suit from the video for “I’m Fat” (Michael Jackson’s “I’m Bad”). For this “Mandatory World Tour,” Yankovic is adding to his concert experience with the “Mandatory Czar VIP Experience.” This package includes exclusive seating, a meet and greet, a pre-show costume party with snacks, a cash bar and “Minister of Propaganda” DJ. In addition, VIPs will receive merch such as a signed tour flag, a Yankovic-edited edition of “MAD Magazine” and a souvenir lanyard.

Gadsden’s Albert Simpson at LuLu’s

Memorial Day weekend marked the beginning of the summer season on the Alabama Gulf Coast. For the next several months, the Gulf Shores/Orange Beach area will be filled with tourists and locals who soak up the sun and saltwater. Those wanting to accent their beach experience with music should look no further than Albert Simpson’s performance at Lucy Buffett’s LuLu’s in Gulf Shores.

This Gadsden native is a regular on the Gulf Coast music scene. Armed with a guitar and numerous percussive instruments, Simpson may be a lone gunman on the stage but he puts on a big show, with musicianship and lyrical mastery.

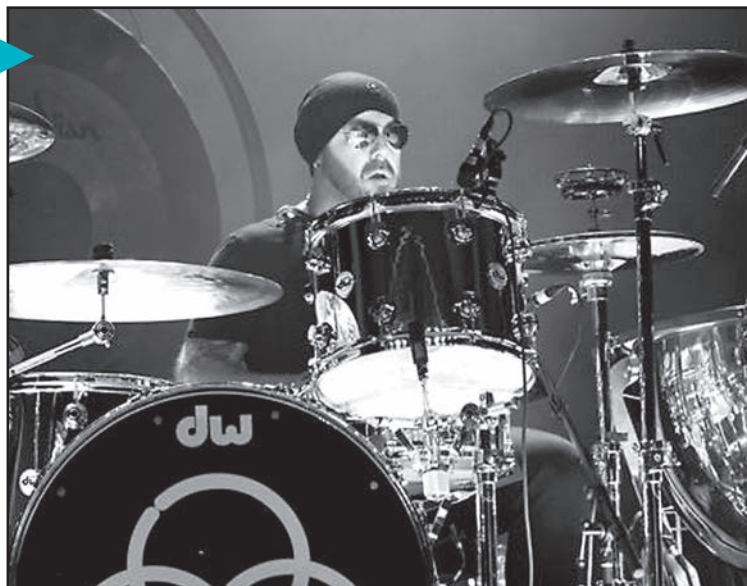
Simpson’s most recent effort, “Roll Your Mind,” is an excellent sample of this musician’s talent. Not only did he play all the instruments on the album, he also manned the co-production chair. Each song is noteworthy for its major focus on acoustic instruments. This truly Southern album mixes funk and blues, with fusion blasts on the guitar popping up here and there. Simpson’s music should bring a hot day at the beach to a perfect end.



Photo | Frank Allen Sr./facebook.com/albert.simpson.96 | Albert Simpson ■

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■ Photo | facebook.com | Jason Bonham

Zeppelin revisited

Led Zeppelin’s mix of blues and rock laid the roots for heavy metal and inspired a multitude of musicians. Jason Bonham, son of the band’s late drummer, John Bonham, is keeping Zeppelin’s legacy and music alive with his “Led Zeppelin Experience.”

This multimedia show brings Zeppelin fans some of this legendary band’s greatest songs performed live. In addition to admirable recreations of Zeppelin’s music, Bonham enhances this experience with home movies featuring his late father. The performance reaches an apex with a rendition of “Moby Dick” that features a drum collaboration between Bonham and his father — he performs live, his father onscreen.

Over the past couple of decades, rumors of a reunion have persisted — ideally consisting of the three surviving members with Jason Bonham on drums — but that has yet to happen ... making this show a must for any Zeppelin fan.



Gypsy punk crowd pleaser

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

Frank Turner, former vocalist of post-hardcore band Million Dead, has released six albums in a primarily acoustic-based solo career following the band's split in 2005. He is touring in support of his latest, "Positive Songs for Negative People."

- **Band:** Gogol Bordello, Frank Turner & the Sleeping Souls, Walter Shreifels
- **Date:** Monday, June 6, with doors at 7 p.m.
- **Venue:** Soul Kitchen, 219 Dauphin St., www.soulkitchenmobile.com
- **Tickets:** \$30 advance/\$35 day of show/\$47.50 riser seats; available at Soul Kitchen, its website, Mellow Mushroom (both locations) or by calling 1-866-468-7630

Soul Kitchen is giving the Azalea City an evening of music built on a foundation of exotic folk sounds from across the ocean. New York's Gogol Bordello will serve as the evening's headliner. With its trademark gypsy punk sound, this group is certain to be a crowd pleaser. Such a headliner deserves an equally charismatic opening act, and Frank Turner is just the guy to get the job done.

Much like in the United States, many modern acts in Great Britain are laying their rock on a foundation of folk influences. With a legacy that includes time with the post-hardcore outfit Million Dead, Turner embraces the folk sounds of his native England. His original sound melds both folk and rock influences with outstanding results.

For Turner, rock 'n' roll was changed forever when Bob Dylan traded his acoustic guitar for an electric. Since then, Turner has felt folk sounds can be found in many rock compositions.

"I think folk music is always there," Turner said. "I think the irony of popularity and fashionability swings over it, but it never goes away. It's just whether or not the people who write trendy music are paying attention or not. Folk's the unpinning of everything in a way."

Local radio has done a fine job introducing the city to Turner. The single "Recovery" from his 2013 release "Tape Deck Heart" has been embraced by locals. When he arrives in Mobile, Turner will entertain his audience with cuts from his latest album, "Positive Songs for Negative People." This sixth release from Turner is a profound contrast from his previous solo work, which was inten-



Photo courtesy of Universal Music Group

tional. He describes "Tape Deck Heart" as a highly produced album with multiple layers, containing songs that can be a little lengthy. He finds "Tape Deck Heart" both involved and introspective.

For "Positive Songs for Negative People," Turner turned to his hardcore muses for inspiration. While this album reflects familiar sounds, Turner has also peppered the album with the primal intensity of punk rock. This slight turn from the musical style of his previous five releases has led to mixed reviews. However, Turner takes the negative with a grain of salt. He considers himself the best critic of his own music and is happy with the tracks on this album, which he calls "the best thing that I was able to do in that time and in that place." He also keeps in mind the critics' reaction to his last album.

"'Tape Deck Heart' didn't get the great-

est reviews when it came out, but it sold more than any other record," Turner said. "In reviews for the new one, everyone is [saying] 'Tape Deck Heart' was brilliant, but we're not sure about the new one,' which makes me think, 'Well, f*ck off, then!'"

While Turner's hardcore background is definitely heard throughout "Positive Songs for Negative People," his folk roots still resonate. This can especially be seen with the album's opener, "The Angel Islington." Gentle string plucks run parallel to heartfelt lyrics as Turner takes his listeners to his home. This song has been called his "love letter to North London," home to the paternal side of Turner's family. Until moving to this section of town, his life consisted of nonstop touring and "couch surfing." A few years ago, Turner decided to take his life in a new direction by settling in this part of town, giving birth to

not only this song but also one of the concepts driving this album.

"Part of the vibe of the new record is about turning over a new leaf and new beginnings," Turner explained. "It's about trying to move on from the difficult or dark times into something more optimistic."

When it comes to his live show, Turner finds inspiration in bands such as Sick of It All and Agnostic Front. Each performance has the energy of a punk rock show. However, he also sees performing in this way as an occupational hazard. At a recent show in Belgium, his stagediving antics caused an in-ear monitor to shatter. Luckily, all of the plastic and metal was removed from his head by a skilled local doctor. Turner says the live show is a chance for him to release everything upon his audience. If he has energy left at the end of the show, Turner feels he hasn't given it his all.



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Callaghan's— Phil Proctor
Cockeyed Charlie's— JJ, 10p
Felix's— Jeri
Hangout— David Chastang, 1p// Oliver's Twist, 6p
Hard Rock (Center Bar) — Flying Steinway Brothers
Lulu's— Albert Simpson, 5p
McSharry's— Kathy and Jeff, 7:30p
Old 27 Grill— Songwriter's Night, 6:30p
Pinzones— Rebecca Barry and John Cochran

[FRI. JUNE 3]

All Sports Bar & Billards— DJ Markie Mark, 10p
Blind Mule— Deaf and Poor with Jaguarundi, 10p
Bluegill— Dale Drinkard, 12p// Blind Dog Mike, 6p
Blues Tavern— Jeff Jenson Band, 9p
Callaghan's— The Stolen Faces
Cockeyed Charlie's— Shea White & Friends, 10p
Ed's Seafood Shed— Ross Newell and John Cochran
Felix's— Grits N Pieces
Garage— Red Field

Hangout— Eric Erdman, 1p// VooDoo Gumbo, 7p
Hard Rock (Center Bar) — Supercharger, 9p
IP Casino— Happy Together Tour, 8p
Listening Room— Harrison McInnis
Lulu's— Albert Simpson, 5p
Main Street Cigar Lounge— The Memories, 8p
Manci's— Leavin' Bros Duo
McSharry's— DJ Chi, 10p
Moe's BBQ (Daphne) — Charlie Wilson Band, 8p
Moe's BBQ (Mobile) — Matt and Sherry Neese, 6:30p
O'Daly's— Gene Murrell, Tony Edwards and David White, 10p
Old 27 Grill— Whiskey Bridge, 6:30p
Pinzones— Brandon Bailey
Tropics— Something Else, 7p
Soul Kitchen— CBDB, Infant Richard and the Delta Stones, 10:30p

[SAT. JUNE 4]

Bluegill— Lee Yankie, 12p// Fat Lincoln, 6p
Blues Tavern— Woo Tones, 9p
Cockeyed Charlie's— Jordan Bramblett
Cowboys and Angels— Kick off Summer: DJ, food and more, 11a
Ed's Seafood Shed— Bobby Butchka
Felix's— Blind Dog Mike
Garage— Whyte Caps

Hangout— Dillion Braxton, 1p// VooDoo Gumbo, 7p
Hard Rock (Center Bar) — Supercharger, 9p
Hard Rock (Live) — 38 Special, 8p
IP Casino— Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Experience, 8p
Listening Room— Ruby and the Rogues
Lulu's— Three Bean Soup, 5p
Manci's— Modern Eldorados
McSharry's— DJ Carter, 10p
The Merry Widow— Hackensaw Boys, 9p
Moe's BBQ (Mobile) — Glass Joe, 6:30p
Pinzones— Brewfest: Eric Erdman, 1:30p// Harrison McInnis, 3p// Paw Paws Medicine Cabinet, 5p// Lisa Mills, 7p
Top of the Bay— 12 Sharp
Tropics— Westside Players Duo, 7p

[SUN. JUNE 5]

Bluegill— Dale Drinkard, 12p// U.S. Band, 6p
Blues Tavern— Mark Welborn, 6p
Callaghan's— The Crickets
Ed's Seafood Shed— Ross Newell
Felix's— Bobby Butchka
Hangout— Jay Williams, 1p// The Foxy Iguanas, 6p
Hard Rock (Center Bar) — Brent & Steve, 9p
Listening Room— The Rising Sons
Lulu's— Blind Dog Mike & the Howlers, 5p

Manci's— Molly Thomas & The Rare Birds
McSharry's— Trad Irish Music, 6:30p
Old 27 Grill— Barry Gibsin, 11:30a
Pinzones— Ross Newell, 11a

[MON. JUNE 6]

Felix's— Grits N Pieces
Hangout— The Perry Wall, 6p
Lulu's— Brent Burns, 5p
Saenger— “Weird Al” Yankovic
Soul Kitchen— Gogol Bordello, Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls, Walter Schreifels, 8p

[TUE. JUNE 7]

Bluegill— Tim Kinsey
Butch Cassidy's— Andy MacDonald
Cockeyed Charlie's— Jordan Bramblett
Felix's— Roger Fleshman
Hangout— Wavelength, 6p
Lulu's— Melissa Joiner, 5p
Saenger— Harry Connick Jr. – “That Would be Me”

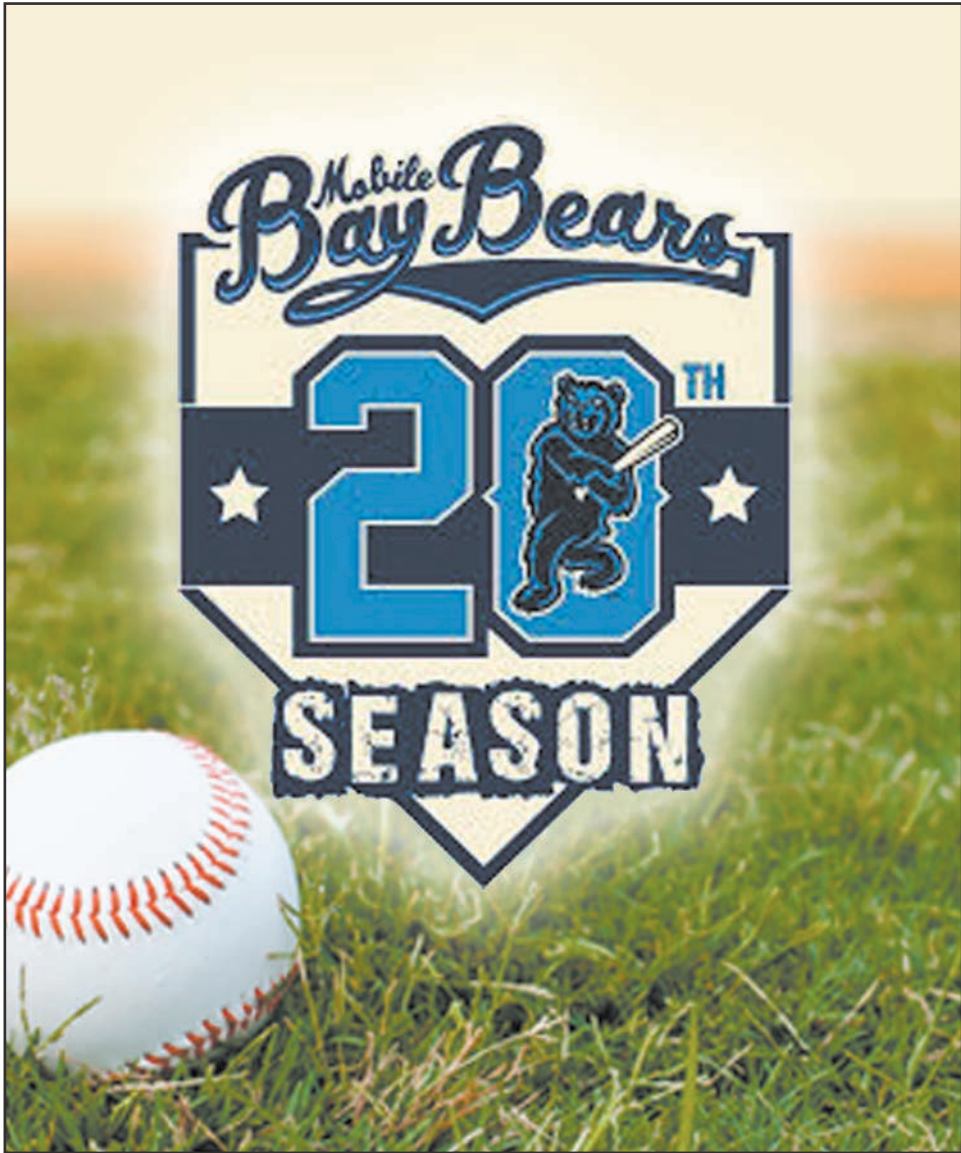
[WED. JUNE 8]

Blues Tavern— Art, 8p
Callaghan's— Phil and Foster
Felix's— Bobby Butchka
Hangout— Ryan Balthrop and Friends, 6p
Lulu's— Nikki Talley, 5p
McSharry's— Songwriters in the Round, 7p

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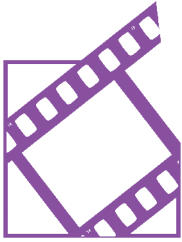
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Patchwork ‘Victor Frankenstein’ fails to deliver

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

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CRESCENT THEATER
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(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.

Led astray by a promising pedigree, I looked forward to “Victor Frankenstein.” Directed by Paul McGuigan, who directs television’s “Sherlock,” and starring James McAvoy, Daniel Craig and Andrew Scott (who plays Moriarty on the aforementioned “Sherlock,”) this film nevertheless most closely resembled the “Frankenstein” tale in that it was itself a grotesque monster of ill-fitting parts, sewn crudely together with big, ugly seams.

Like Sherlock Holmes, Victor Frankenstein (James McAvoy) is portrayed as a brilliant egomaniac, and the film’s twist is that we also get to learn more about Igor (Daniel Radcliffe). A pitiful but intelligent hunchback living a sad, undignified life in the circus, he is rescued by Frankenstein when his natural talents for surgery are put to use saving the beautiful acrobat for whom he pines (Jessica Brown Findlay).

As the men escape in an improbable action sequence shoehorned into the story a circus goon is killed, and this puts detective and religious zealot Andrew Scott on the trail of our brilliant, short scientists and their misbegotten plans to electrocute things back to life. Beginning with a gross monkey creature, Frankenstein and Igor demonstrate their work at the Royal College of

Medicine, attracting the attention of a wealthy, powerful and extremely snide classmate who, with sinister speed and enthusiasm, offers to bankroll the rest of their bad, dangerous plans for what we can only assume are totally altruistic reasons.

And it is in the middle part of this silly film that

“THERE IS ONE MOMENT WHEN THIS FILM ACKNOWLEDGES ‘YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN,’ IN WHICH VICTOR CORRECTS THE PRONUNCIATION OF HIS LAST NAME, LIKE GENE WILDER DOES IN THE MEL BROOKS FILM.”

the script really comes apart. Igor and Frankenstein’s relationship, which is the only thing that makes this story different from a straight Frankenstein story, is completely inconsistent. They agree and disagree at random, and the weakness of the writing really shows in their scenes.

I expected this to be silly in a light-horror way. They

were clearly going for the feeling of the entertaining Guy Ritchie Sherlock Holmes movies, but failed to deliver the comic punch or physical bravado those have. “Victor Frankenstein” was silly in an unwatchable way. I’m all for making up backstory to carve an extra movie out of something we already know, but this story keeps going to its regular ending anyway, and is indescribably anticlimactic.

I must admit the set for the gothic castle where Frankenstein’s monster is eventually created is classic and awesome. But they had to rush through the end because we’d already watched a whole movie about Igor. Seeing the lightning crackle and snap, you can’t help but wish for a normal Frankenstein story, or just to watch one that’s already been made. And if we wanted to learn more about young Frankenstein, we’d all be much better off watching “Young Frankenstein.”

There is one moment when this film acknowledges “Young Frankenstein,” in which Victor corrects the pronunciation of his last name, like Gene Wilder does in the Mel Brooks film. It’s a glorious moment, and gives the film a quickly extinguished glimmer of hope. The whole film should have just gone for funny, because no one could take this seriously.

“Victor Frankenstein” is currently available to rent.



Photos | Davis Entertainment / Gama Entertainment Partners / Walt Disney Pictures

(From left) Much like its namesake, “Victor Frankenstein” is a grotesque monster of ill-fitting parts, sewn crudely together with big, ugly seams. Megan Fox and Will Arnett join the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles in a battle against Casey Jones, and Tim Burton revisits a classic tale (again) in “Alice Through the Looking Glass.”

NOW PLAYING

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

All listed multiplex theaters.

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE

All listed multiplex theaters.

THE NICE GUYS

All listed multiplex theaters.

NEIGHBORS 2: SORORITY RISING

All listed multiplex theaters.

THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE

All listed multiplex theaters.

THE DARKNESS

All listed multiplex theaters.

MONEY MONSTER

Regal Mobile Stadium 18, Carmike Jubilee Square 12

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

All listed multiplex theaters.

MOTHER’S DAY

The Wharf, Cobb Pinnacle 18

THE HUNTSMAN: WINTER’S WAR

All listed multiplex theaters.

THE JUNGLE BOOK

All listed multiplex theaters.

CRIMINAL

All listed multiplex theaters.

THE BOSS

All listed multiplex theaters.

BATMAN V. SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE

All listed multiplex theaters.

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2

Carmike Wharf

ZOOTPIA

All listed multiplex theaters.

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NEW IN THEATERS

ME BEFORE YOU

Adapted from the best-selling novel by Jojo Moyes, this is the story of the unexpected relationship that blossoms between a contented small-town English-woman (“Game of Thrones” Emilia Clarke) and the wealthy, paralyzed Londoner who hires her as his caretaker. Crescent Theater, Regal Mobile Stadium 18, Eastern Shore Premiere Cinema, Cobb Pinnacle 18

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Michelangelo, Donatello, Leonardo and Raphael return to theaters this summer to battle bigger, badder villains alongside April O’Neil (Megan Fox), Vern Fenwick (Will Arnett) and a newcomer: the hockey-masked vigilante Casey Jones (Stephen Amell). All listed multiplex theaters.

Are ad blockers the next blow to media?

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



Though the technology has not yet become ubiquitous in the United States, ad-blocking software is already costing media and other online advertising purveyors billions of dollars in Asia and other “emerging” markets.

The New York Times published a story Monday discussing something that has certainly been — or should be — on the radar for any business that counts on online advertising to keep the trains running. Right now, it says, one in five cell phone users — 420 million people worldwide — are blocking advertising on their cellular devices. The Times quotes information pulled from a study conducted by digital advertising company PageFair, and Priori Data, a company that tracks smartphone applications.

While only 4.3 million Americans — just 2.2 percent of smartphone users — currently engage ad blockers, the numbers are much larger overseas. Right now, according to the study, 36 percent of smartphone users in the Asia-Pacific region have ad blockers on their phones. In India and Indonesia, 66 percent of people use them.

This also doesn't count another 200 million people worldwide who have added ad-blocking software to their desktop computers.

The article attributes the much higher percentage of ad-blocker usage in other parts of the world to the fact that in those markets people tend to use phones as their primary access to the web. As more and more Americans follow suit, experts expect the use of ad blockers to rise. Last year the number of people using the technology worldwide almost doubled.

It should be pretty obvious why such technology presents a real danger to media companies, the vast majority of which are still trying desperately to find ways to make the effort put into their websites produce the kind of revenue they got from their original platforms.

A University of Texas at Austin research paper earlier this year already has shown that the efforts of many of the country's daily newspapers to “go digital” over the past decade has fallen flat in many regards, and that's without having to deal with ad blockers.

The UTA study found that while print has declined among 51 of the country's largest daily newspapers, it is still by far the more dominant generator of revenue and readership for those newspapers. So yes, even 20 years into the digital revolution, the study showed readers of these newspapers, at every age group, still overwhelmingly read the print version versus digital.

From 2010 to 2014, digital newspaper advertising in this country only rose from \$3 billion to \$3.5 billion. Even though print revenue dropped precipitously from \$22.8 billion in 2010, it was still \$16.4 billion four years later — almost five times as much as digital — and generated about 80 percent of total ad revenue.

When the chief executive of PageFair declares it's “only a matter of time until mobile blocking comes to the West,” it's not hard to imagine a looming problem for companies that have put all or most of their eggs in the digital basket. A couple of international cellphone companies are already toying with the idea of offering ad-blocking packages to consumers, something that, if it proves popular, could even trigger lawsuits over “net neutrality” issues.

The bottom line, it seems, is that many people still don't like digital advertising, find it obtrusive and realize it makes load times longer for those websites you just absolutely need to see right now. In this instant-gratification world, a few seconds is all it takes for people to be turned off.

But consumers have to realize that if ad blockers become the norm, their favorite news sites will eventually have to go behind a paywall to survive. And that presents a whole other issue.

Cuts at The Press-Register

Insiders are telling us that last week as much as half of the local circulation staff still remaining at The Press-Register was terminated.

One of those laid off tells Lagniappe management from the New Orleans office showed up and commenced the firings. When

asked how the paper's circulation issues would be handled with such a large decrease in staff, the former employee said the P-R's circulation has sunk so low that even with half the staff it would be no problem.

Lagniappe was unable to get comment from anyone with Alabama Media Group. The Press-Register, as well as The Huntsville Times and Birmingham News, are all currently run by AMG. However, it has been announced the Southeast Regional Media Group will launch later this year and take in all of the Newhouse-owned newspapers and websites in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Former P-R publisher Ricky Mathews — who currently oversees Louisiana for the company — will be in charge of the SRMG.

Eli returning to Alabama

Former FOX10 sports anchor/reporter Simone Eli is headed back to 'Bama after a two-year stint at KPRC-TV in Houston.

Eli says the move is more personal than business, which is why she's leaving one of the nation's largest markets to head back to the Birmingham/Tuscaloosa area.

“I've loved my time here and have created amazing relationships with folks at KPRC, but I am moving to be happier personally and continue my sports broadcasting career in Alabama [Birmingham/Tuscaloosa area],” Eli told a Houston media blogger last week.

Eli worked at WALA for a year before abruptly leaving the station in June 2014. Prior to that she worked at Buckeye Cable Sports Network.

While she has not yet announced a new position, Eli told other Houston media she had received “a few job offers in the Birmingham-Tuscaloosa area” and is excited to be closer to friends and family.

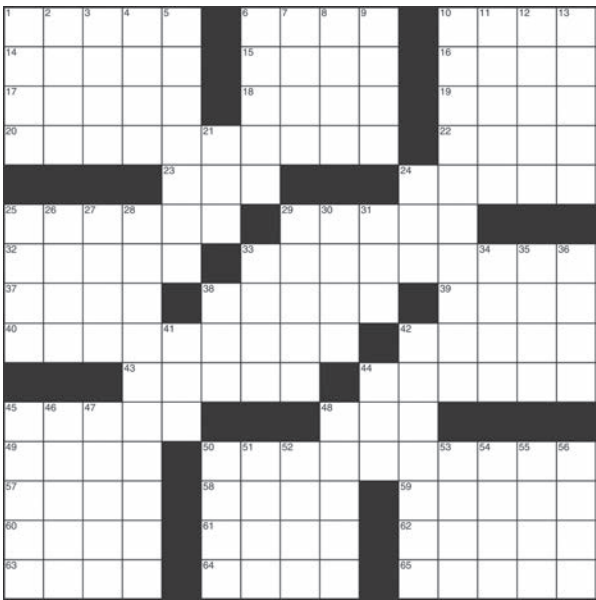
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Bowling pin wood
6. Stadium regulars
10. Flanders of fiction
14. “Manhattan” director
15. Buffalo's lake
16. Having the skills
17. Ashcan School painter
18. Nits, eventually
19. Appaloosa's relative
20. Puts under a spell
22. Partial prefix
23. Cereal container
24. Oscar-winner Hayward
25. Autocrat's worry
29. Laryngeal woe
32. Still kicking
33. Cooler residents
37. Prop for Chaplin
38. Circuit-board wrecker
39. Energy field, of sorts
40. Tires out
42. Quell, as concerns
43. Stood up to
44. Atlas features
45. Extract metals by heating
48. Many chiliads
49. Angel's prop
50. Acted like a control freak
57. Again from the top
58. Quite excited
59. Embargo target
60. Green hue
61. Hardly captivating
62. Pacific island
63. Deposited, as eggs
64. On the way, in a way
65. Aromatic chemical

DOWN

1. Brewer's preparation
2. Adversary's antithesis
3. Rainspout sound
4. Pastrami preference
5. Lend dignity or honor to
6. Oscar's “The Odd Couple” pal
7. Grand Canyon's loc.
8. Heading on Santa's list
9. Doesn't raise or fold
10. Wombats, bandicoots, etc.
11. Violas' pit neighbors
12. Vicuna's kin
13. Bolshevik hero
21. Day care attendee
24. Hoagie
25. Hare vs. tortoise event
26. Flair or gusto
27. It climbs the walls
28. Caused a spill
29. Felt deeply
30. Convoy components, often
31. “Blood and Sand” cry



33. Cordage fiber
34. Game guide
35. Shucks!
36. Asserts
38. Bag, zoologically
41. Chocolatier's vessel
42. Mouseketeer notable
44. Charged particle
45. Must, in a contract
46. Fervor
47. Incense resin
48. Figure skating figure
50. Artist's light touches
51. Wolfish look
52. Haunted house noise
53. Valentine's Day deity
54. Go on and on
55. Head start, say
56. Diary opener

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62



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SUMMER GARDEN WALK AT BELLINGRATH GARDENS AND HOME

JOIN BELLINGRATH'S HORTICULTURAL MANAGEMENT TEAM AT 10:30 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, FOR A GUIDED TOUR OF THE GARDENS TO SEE OUR WONDERFUL SUMMER DISPLAYS, FLORAL BORDERS AND NEW ADDITIONS. THE EVENT IS THE FIRST OF OUR WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS SERIES AT BELLINGRATH IN JUNE AND JULY AND IS INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR GARDENS ADMISSION PRICE OF \$13 FOR ADULTS AND \$7.50 FOR AGES 5-12. (THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR BELLINGRATH MEMBERS OR FOR AGES 4 AND YOUNGER.) FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER, VISIT BELLINGRATH.ORG OR CALL 251-973-2217.



Photo provided by Bellingrath Gardens

GENERAL INTEREST

Summer Garden Walk at Bellingrath Gardens and Home

Join Bellingrath's horticultural management team at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 1, for a guided tour of the gardens to see our wonderful summer displays, floral borders and new additions. The event is the first of our Wonderful Wednesdays series at Bellingrath in June and July and is included in the regular gardens admission price of \$13 for adults and \$7.50 for ages 5-12. (There is no charge for Bellingrath members or for ages 4 and younger.) For details and to register, visit bellingrath.org or call 251-973-2217.

Kids Gulf Discovery Day

School is out and it's time to enjoy a day of summertime fun for the whole family! Come to Bellingrath Gardens and Home for Kids Gulf Discovery Day from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, June 8. Children will learn about the wildlife and ecology of the Gulf Coast from a variety of organizations. The Environmental Studies Center will bring their Raptor Road Show to the Great Lawn and children will get a chance to get a close look at raptors, owls and other rehabilitated birds of prey. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab will educate kids about the amazing and diverse life in Mobile Bay. Delta Safaris will offer guided cruises along Fowl River at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and at 12:30 p.m., weather permitting. Space is limited and reservations are required for the cruise; to register, call 251-973-2217.

National Cancer Survivors Day

An annual celebration for cancer survivors will be held Sunday, June 5, at the Alabama Cruise Terminal, 201 S. Water St., in Mobile. The free event, sponsored by USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, will feature an exhibit of artwork created by cancer survivors and curated by local artist B'Beth Weldon. All cancer survivors and their guests are welcome. Parking is free. To RSVP call 251-445-8434.

Voter registration and photo ID drive

In an effort to ensure eligible Alabama citizens are able to vote, Alabama's Secretary of State John H. Merrill has asked members of the Legislature and all probate judges to provide three separate and specific days of the week, times and venues in their respective jurisdictions where the Secretary of State's office may hold a drive for voter registration and issuance of photo IDs. In Mobile County, the drive will be held Thursday, June 9, in two locations: 9 a.m. to noon at Connie Hudson West Mobile Regional Senior Citizens Center, 3201 Hillcrest Road; and from 2-5 p.m. at the North Mobile Nursing and Rehab Facility, 4525 St. Stephens Road, in Eight Mile. For more information, residents can call 1-800-274-VOTE or go to www.alabamavoterid.com.

Get in the Game: Read

Area teens are invited to participate in Daphne's "Get in the Game: Read!" teen summer reading program, June 6-30. Teens are invited to come to the library and read for prizes as well as take part in special events offered throughout the month of June. Special events will include a science workshop, two art workshops and a yoga class. Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to register to attend these free events. Official kickoff will be Monday, June 6, at 10 a.m. at the Daphne Civic Center. For additional information call 251-621-2818, ext. 211.

The Steeple Open House

The construction is finished, the lights are back on, and The Steeple is open for business! Come check out the new and improved space! Enjoy live entertainment and a drink as you explore the newest venue in town! This event is FREE and open to the public Tuesday, June 7, 5-7 p.m. The Steeple is at 251 St. Francis St. (Mobile).

Summer outdoor farmer's market

The city of Fairhope hosts a summer outdoor farmer's market from 3-6 p.m.

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

Market on the Square

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

Dauphin Island Boardwalk Talks

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

FUNDRAISERS

100 Black Men Gala

The 100 Black Men of Greater Mobile Inc. will host its 16th annual gala Tuesday, June 7, at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center. The organization continues to bring awareness through its community involvement focusing on education, mentoring, economic development, and health and wellness. This event raises scholarship funds for students who are transitioning from high school to the world of higher education. The 2016 keynote speaker for the gala will be Avery Johnson, men's head basketball coach at the University of Alabama.

For more information on sponsorship, tickets and donation opportunities, contact the 100 Black Men of Greater Mobile, 251-405-5500 or email mweston@100blackmenofmobile.org.

Coastal Seafood Craze

On Friday, June 3, the Alabama Coastal Foundation will hold the 5th annual Coastal Seafood Craze starting at 5 p.m. at the Hank Aaron Stadium Event Center (755 Bolling Brothers Blvd., Mobile). The event will go until 7:05 p.m. when the first pitch is thrown as part of ACF Night with the Mobile BayBears! The \$25 tickets — which include delicious seafood, beverages and admission to the game — can be purchased through the ACF's web site (www.joinACF.org) or at the door. Children under 10 are admitted free. All proceeds from the event will help support the ACF's education and habitat restoration programs.

Putting the Pub in Public Radio

The 2nd annual Putting the Pub in Public Radio will be held Saturday, June 4, from 4-7 p.m. at Fairhope Brewing Co. The event is a fundraiser benefiting Alabama Public Radio. Enjoy the music of Eric Erdman, catering by Beef O'Brady's and great Fairhope Brewing Co. beer and wine, with door prizes from area merchants. APR will receive \$1 from each pint sold as well as proceeds from ticket sales. "Putting the Pub in Public Radio" is a great opportunity to support listener-funded APR. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 day of the event, and will include an event T-shirt and pint glass. Tickets are available online at www.apr.org/pub or at Bayside Insurance, Beef O'Brady's, Express Employment Professionals and at the door. For more information about Alabama Public Radio or this event, visit www.apr.org.

Cajun Cornhole Classic

The 2nd annual Cajun Cornhole Classic tournament to raise money for Springboard to Success will be Thursday, June 2, at 5:30 p.m. in Cathedral Square. Twenty two-man

CALENDAR OF EVENTS JUNE 2, 2016 - JUNE 8, 2016

teams will compete in a single-elimination tournament with a \$200 cash prize awarded to the winning team and downtown swag for the team with the Best Name and the Most Gusto! For more information or to register visit cajuncornholeclassic.eventbrite.com or call 251-434-8498.

ARTS

Night Market

Mobile Museum of Art hosts a quarterly Night Market of wares by artists and artisans. Bring a keen eye for detail and become known for the unique gifts you give. Be the envy of your friends with rare, artful home décor. Support your local artists and join the party and shopping fun with great food, drink and live music. The market is Thursday, June 2, 5-9 p.m. at MMoA, 4850 Museum Drive.

MUSEUMS

"Every Object Has a Story"

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

"Treasures of NOAA's Ark"

In GulfQuest's first traveling exhibit, "Treasures of NOAA's Ark," visitors will discover how NOAA charts seas, protects and conserves the nation's marine resources and detects potential hurricanes and tsunamis. By navigating a warehouse of crates containing historic artifacts, visitors will get a glimpse of the groundbreaking technologies developed by NOAA and its early predecessors that have helped save lives and expand our knowledge of the globe. The exhibit also highlights past and present pioneers who made significant contributions to our

understanding of shore, sea and sky. For more information visit gulfquest.org or call 251-436-8901.

"Colors of the Coast"

A call to artists, the annual "Colors of the Coast" is a juried art show to be held in June, presented by Cathedral Square Gallery and title sponsor Wintzell's Oyster House, with awards totaling over \$2,000. For more information and a prospectus, visit CSG's Facebook page or the gallery. Take-in is Saturday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information contact Linda Tenhundfeld at lhall699@aol.com or 251-533-8949.

Thursdays at MMoA

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

SPORTING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Just for the Mud of It

Mobile Police Department's SWAT team will hold its annual Just for the Mud of It run Saturday, June 4, at 7 a.m. Just for the Mud of It is an approximately 5K course filled with mud and obstacles. The course includes running, climbing walls, low-crawling through pits, balance beams, a creek run, water pits and lots of mud. The run will be held at Mobile Metro Firing Range, 12251 Tanner Williams Road. For more information and to register, visit justforthemudofit.org.

Publix Grandman Triathlon

In its 12th year, the Grandman Triathlon has become one of Fairhope's premier annual events, attracting individual and team racers of all ages and skill levels from around the Southeast and beyond. Racers begin the race by jumping from the end of Fairhope Pier into Mobile Bay and swimming one-third of a mile to the shore. Following the swim, racers bike 18 miles, beginning up a steep hill before continuing through the quaint city of Fairhope. Racers conclude the triathlon with a

5K run alongside scenic Mobile Bay, crossing the finish line at Fairhope Park. Proceeds from the race benefit three local nonprofit organizations: Mobile Baykeeper, myTeam Triumph: Southern Alabama, and Gulf Coast Area Triathletes. The race is Saturday, June 4, at 7 a.m. To register or volunteer, please visit www.thegrandman.com. Call 251-433-4229 or contact grandman@mobilebaykeeper.org for more information.

YMCA Golf Classic Tournament

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



Photo | www.milb.com

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

Paddle Skedaddle

Join USA Wesley Foundation for a canoe and kayak paddle and a family fun fair. The Paddle Skedaddle will be

held at 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center on Saturday, June 4, 8 a.m. till 2 p.m. There will be awards, lots of fair games and concession stands. For more information please visit USAWesley.com/paddle.

Mobile BayBears

The Mobile BayBears are back in action for a 20th season of MiLB Double-A baseball at Hank Aaron Stadium in Mobile. The BayBears finish a home stand against visiting Pensacola June 3, followed by five away games against Biloxi. For more information or tickets call 251-479-BEAR.

Ballroom dance

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

Irish dance lessons

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

Ballroom dance

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



Southern Cancer Center is partnering with the Mobile BayBears for a

"Survivor Celebration Night" on Friday, June 3rd

Come watch our hometown BayBears take on the Pensacola Blue Wahoos and help us celebrate National Cancer Survivor Month.

Game starts at 7:05pm with fireworks afterwards. Attendees will enjoy a photo booth, free giveaways and a great night of baseball.

Visit mobilebaybears.com for ticket information.

NIGHT MARKET

MOBILE MUSEUM OF ART HOSTS A QUARTERLY NIGHT MARKET OF WARES BY ARTISTS AND ARTISANS. BRING A KEEN EYE FOR DETAIL AND BECOME KNOWN FOR THE UNIQUE GIFTS YOU GIVE. BE THE ENVY OF YOUR FRIENDS WITH RARE, ARTFUL HOME DÉCOR. SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ARTISTS AND JOIN THE PARTY AND SHOPPING FUN WITH GREAT FOOD, DRINK AND LIVE MUSIC. THE MARKET IS THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 5-9 P.M. AT MMOA, 4850 MUSEUM DRIVE.



Photo | www.mobilemuseumofart.com

Bridge lessons

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

WORKSHOPS

Adult Mental Health First Aid Training

Similar to CPR/First Aid, Mental Health First Aid teaches individuals how to help those experiencing mental health challenges or crises. Members of Lifelines Counseling Services will be training members of the Mobile and Baldwin county communities for FREE with meals on Saturday, June 4. Please arrive 7:30-8 a.m. for registration and breakfast; class will begin at 8 a.m. Certifications can only be awarded to people who stay for the entire 8 hours of class (approximate end time is about 5:30 pm). We kindly ask you plan accordingly. The class will be held at University of South Alabama Student Center, 350 Campus Drive, Room 205. If you have questions, contact Chalissee Peltier, cpeltier@lifelinesmobile.org.

About Boating Safely

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

SELF-IMPROVEMENT

Addiction counseling

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

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

Top Cats Toastmasters

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

Downtown Toastmasters

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

Jubilee Toastmasters

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

Eastern Shore Toastmasters

The Eastern Shore Toastmasters Club hosts a weekly meeting at Daphne United Methodist Church (2401 Main St.), in the Community Life Center on the second floor, 6-7 p.m. on Thursdays.

Practice your speaking, listening and leadership skills in a friendly, relaxed and supportive environment. Guests are welcome! Visit us on Facebook (facebook.com/EasternShoreTM) or email contact-8422@toastmastersclubs.org.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Mobile City Council

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

Mobile Planning Commission

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

Daphne City Council

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

Fairhope City Council

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

Fairhope Planning Commission

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

Foley City Council

The Foley City Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers

at Foley City Hall, 407 E. Laurel Ave. Work sessions begin at 4 p.m. before each regularly scheduled meeting. For more information visit cityoffoley.org.

Spanish Fort City Council

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

Baldwin County Commission

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

Baldwin County Planning Commission

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

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

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

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

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

Satsuma City Council: First and third Tuesday, 6 p.m. (working), 7 p.m. (regular session), 5464 Old Highway 43, 251-675-1440.

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

SEND YOUR EVENTS TO EVENTS@LAGNIAPPEMOBILE.COM

Blogging is the new black

BY STEPHANIE MAY/CONTRIBUTING WRITER



When you move 500 miles away from the city you called home for 27 years and return three years later, it can feel a bit like seeing an old flame again. You can't really remember why you left, there are new surprises around every corner and the city itself is full of new adventures you have yet to explore.

This is how I feel moving back to Mobile after spending a few years in the beautiful city of Tampa, where I owned a boutique and worked regularly with several local style bloggers.

Smaller cities tend to be behind in the fashion trend cycle but Mobile has a reputable fashion scene since the launch of Mobile Fashion Week, a thriving boutique community and up-and-coming designer brands such as the Mermania swim line. It has been nearly a decade since the style blogging phenomenon first kicked off and after a great deal of blood, sweat, tears and ripped seams, style bloggers are now an accepted part of the fashion establishment.

You'll see them in the front rows at major fashion shows, landing prominent ad campaigns, starring on magazine covers and launching multimillion-dollar businesses. With so many potential possibilities in a fun side gig, I am fascinated by the fact that there are no known style, travel or fitness bloggers in Mobile.

The competitive world of style blogging is beneficial to local boutiques, designer labels and even hotels. Social media itself is easy advertising when collaborating with bloggers with a local following, then tie in the daily readers on the blog websites and you have cross-promoted multiple times.

Blogging has also become very important for small businesses. Local boutiques are now starting their own style blogs on the company's website, which links all social media accounts and promotes interaction by potential customers. A business blog is a unique way to connect people to your brand, boost search engine optimization (SEO) and create opportunities for sharing.

There are a few up-and-coming bloggers in Alabama who do a wonderful job of spotlighting their favorite shops, brands, restaurants, etc. Kirby J. Cox currently lives in Birmingham and is a style/travel blogger featuring outfit posts, favorite brands and gorgeous travel photos from Spain and Ireland. You can find her at kirbyjoanna.com and on Instagram at @kirbyjoanna. I spoke with Kirby and asked her to give me a little insight on why she is passionate about blogging.

"There are a lot of things that I love about blogging, but I'd have to say my favorite is that it allows me to meet people from all over the world and to be able to collaborate with them on projects," she said.

Networking with like-minded individuals is a perk for most people with a passion for writing, style, travel, health and so many other topics but how much time does it take to start this as a new hobby? I asked Kirby how much time she estimates she spends monthly on blogging and the research that goes into each collaboration.



Photo courtesy of Stephanie May

REGIONAL STYLE BLOGGERS SUCH AS KIRBY J. COX AND KRISTIN JONES HAVE CREATED UNIQUE ONLINE OUTLETS FOR THEIR HOBBIES. MANY BLOGGERS KEEP THE SITES AMATEUR, BUT OTHERS FEATURE PROFESSIONAL DESIGNS AND GENERATE REVENUE.

"It is hard to say exactly how much time I spend on blogging because there are so many things that go into it. It is definitely a full-time job,"

As with any hobby, it needs to be something you enjoy but if you are a local fashionista already posting your daily inspirations and outfits, it can't hurt to try a new avenue. Kristin Jones, another Birmingham blogger, concentrates on fitness and the many marathons she has finished around the country, from Walt Disney World to the New York City Marathon. You can find her at BamaGirlRuns.com and on Instagram at @bamagirlruns.

The people behind companies such as Independent Fashion Bloggers (heartifb.com) have built successful businesses by offering online courses for beginners wanting to learn the latest trends in blogging, photography for social media and tips on how to increase traffic to your website. Many bloggers start with simple "do it

yourself" sites such as Wordpress while others are spending good money to have their blogging websites built by professionals.

Not all outfit posts are created equal. Listed below are my personal favorite bloggers who stand out from the pack thanks to their unique sartorial sense and sharp business acumen. These gals are a true inspiration for anyone who believes style is art and enjoys keeping up with the latest trends, not only in fashion but in the fashion business as well:

- Julie Sarinana of SincerelyJules.com
- Danielle Bernstein of WeWoreWhat.com
- Helena Bordon of HelenaBordon.com
- Aimee Song of SongofStyle.com

Follow along, get inspired and share your passion with Mobile. Whether it is style, fitness, food, art or travel — blogging is a fun, creative outlet that will open new doors and introduce you

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Fuse Project reaches capacity for 3rd annual Dragon Boat Festival

BY J, MARK BRYANT/SPORTS WRITER | sports@lagniappe-

In 2014, the local nonprofit Fuse Project introduced Dragon Boat racing as a fundraiser. Now, just three years later, it has grown into one of the largest Hong Kong-style boat festivals in the United States.

The third annual event is set for Saturday, June 11. After calling the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center home for previous races, the competition is floating down the Causeway to the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.

“As we suspected, the move to the battleship has certainly allowed us to increase participation, from 41 teams last year to 72 teams for this year’s festival,” Adrienne Golden, Fuse Project executive director, said. “And we are thankful for all of the continued support we are receiving from our volunteers, teams and sponsors.”

Seventy-two is the maximum number of teams the Fuse Project can accommodate for the one-day festival. Each team consists of 20 paddlers, a drummer and an experienced person to steer. The 46-foot-long boats race for 250 meters.

“If additional teams would like to participate in the festival, we will allow them to register as an alternate for race day,” Golden said. “Therefore, if a previously registered team decides to drop out, we will allow the alternate team to step up and take their place.”

Since forming in 2012, the Fuse Project has raised more than \$300,000 to support numerous causes promoting health, fitness, education and social responsibility of children in Mobile and Baldwin counties. This year, the group plans to refine its focus on projects that center on after-school programs for children along the Alabama Gulf Coast.

“Our goal is to ensure that all kids have access to an after-school program that increases their overall quality of life, and to foster a healthy family dynamic for the working parents and their children,” Grant Zarzour, Fuse Project co-founder and chairman, said. After reaching \$151,000 in 2015, the Fuse Project aims to raise more than \$200,000 this year.

On May 24, the Fuse Project hosted an award ceremony to honor 26 students who completed the After-School Initiative at Pilans Middle School. The project helped these Mobile County Public School System students who were experiencing difficulty in adjusting to the structure of a normal school day. The program helped 23 students at Scarborough Middle School the previous year.

“We are thrilled at the success of the After-School Initiative,” Golden said. “Fuse Project invests in specific projects that directly impact children’s lives, and this is a prime example. We are excited to announce that we are finalizing our plans to fund this program at a Baldwin County middle school for the 2016-2017 school year with the funds raised by this year’s Dragon Boat Festival.”

Golden points out the Dragon Boat Festival is a family-friendly, alcohol-free event. There will be food trucks, a petting zoo, pony rides, a trackless train, a gyro gym and inflatable jumpers for children, along with the usual exhibits at the battleship.

“We are planning to have daytime fireworks as our ‘wow’ event on race day,” Golden said. “We are expecting 7,500 people to come out to our event that Saturday.”

For additional information visit fusedragon.causevox.com or send an email to Adrienne@FuseProject.org.



Photo | Courtesy of the Fuse Project

WITH A NEW VENUE AT BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK, THE FUSE PROJECT HAS RECRUITED A RECORD 72 TEAMS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S DRAGON BOAT RACES, SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 11.

Children's Cup Regatta set

The seventh annual Children's tCup Regatta is also scheduled for Saturday, June 11. The event, which takes place at Fairhope Yacht Club, will benefit Gulf Coast patients who are treated at Children's of Alabama pediatric hospital in Birmingham.

A new addition to this year's lineup is kayak races. A 1-mile Fun Paddle will begin at 9 a.m. with a 2-mile competitive race following at 10 a.m. Canoes, as well as one- or two-person kayaks, are welcome. Registration is \$25 per boat.

The entry fee for Performance Handicap Racing Fleet, Portsmouth, Rhodes 19 and Catalina 22 is \$50 per boat. Youth Class entry fee is \$25 per boat. All entry fees are tax deductible.

Guests are invited to watch the races for free beginning at 12:30 p.m. The Al's Activity Area for children — named in honor of local Children's patient Al Guarisco — opens at 4 p.m. and will feature a water slide, arts and crafts, games and a chance to paint with Fairhope artist Ricky Trione. Also planned are a silent auction, barbecue plates, a cash bar and live music. The awards ceremony will begin at 7 p.m.

Children's of Alabama patients and their families are invited to attend. A few boats will be available to take former patients out to watch the races. Last year, Children's treated more than 1,800 patients from Mobile and Baldwin counties.

For more information, call 251-610-4969 and visit either childrensal.org/regatta2016 or facebook.com/childrenscupregatta. Day-of registration is available 9-10:30 a.m. at FYC, 101 Volanta Ave. in Fairhope.

Put on your alligator shoes

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will begin online registration for its 11th annual regulated alligator hunts at 8 a.m. on Friday, June 3. Registration must be completed by 8 a.m. on July 12.

A total of 260 Alligator Possession Tags will be spread among four hunting zones. The fee to apply is \$22, and individuals may register one time per zone. Hunters and their assistants must have valid hunting licenses during the pursuit.

Only Alabama residents and Alabama lifetime license holders ages 16 and older may apply for tags. To register, visit www.outdooralabama.com/registration-instructions.

There will be 150 tags in the Southwest Alabama Zone. This includes private and public waters in Mobile and Baldwin counties, plus areas that lie east of U.S. 43 and south of U.S. 84 in Clarke, Monroe and Washington counties. The hunt runs from 8 p.m. Aug. 11 until 6 a.m. Aug. 14, and from 8 p.m. Aug. 18 to 6 a.m. Aug. 21.

Free fishing day

If you want something a little less adventurous, Alabama residents will have the opportunity to fish for free in most public waters on Saturday, June 11. The event is part of National Fishing and Boating Week, which runs June 4-12.

Free Fishing Day allows residents and nonresidents to fish without a license for a day in both salt and fresh waters. Anglers can visit www.outdooralabama.com/where-fish-alabama to find the closest fishing spots.

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BY DR. ZODIAC/ASTROLOGY GUY

GEMINI (5/21-6/21) — For your “30th” birthday this year, you and friends will decide to go skydiving at a local airport. You’ll arrive at the airport early, your veins pulsing with excitement, but nothing happens at first. You’ll wait hours and hours for your turn in a plane literally taped together and piloted by a man eating a \$5 footlong. Feeling unsafe, you’ll swallow your fear and take the plunge because it’s less likely you’ll die from a freefall than from riding in the rickety plane. You’ll be relieved when you accomplish the feat.

CANCER (6/22-7/22) — Next week, you’ll have nothing to do, so you and colleagues will bat around various goat puns for amusement. It’ll be udderly delightful to listen with sheer joy to your friends toss around the jokes in a very long email chain. A lot of the puns will be cheesy, but they’ll be easy to digest. It’ll finally behoove you to stop when a client calls needing a quote. After all, you won’t want to be the scapegoat if your company misses out on a sale.

LEO (7/23-8/23) — Three months from next Wednesday, you’ll be the first to hear the news the two presumptive presidential candidates are actually robots. The news about Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump will only confirm your suspicions about a secret anti-government cabal that, after years of trying with Ralph Nader and Ross Perot, will finally get a leg up in the presidential election. You’ll watch as both candidates glitch out during a live MSNBC debate. Trump will just repeat the word “huge” over and over again while Hillary just says “woman” repeatedly.

VIRGO (8/24-9/22) — Inspired by a British researcher who lived as a goat for a week, you’ll follow your dream to live as an ape. Donning a gorilla costume, you’ll spend a week in the woods of Baldwin County. You’ll nearly starve to death because of the lack of bananas and bamboo in the wild, but a local zookeeper will rescue and rehabilitate you in the primate exhibit at the zoo. You’ll live a happy life until the day a mischievous toddler falls into the exhibit.

LIBRA (9/23-10/22) — Jumping on the bandwagon of a craze

sweeping Baldwin County, you’ll encourage your daughter to join the archery team at school. Things will go well and your daughter will win many medals for accuracy in competitions across the county. Next month when the gray aliens invade Gulf Shores on July 4, your daughter will lead a rebellion against them. You’ll be proud of her accomplishments, which will inspire a trilogy of young adult novels and a movie series starring Shailene Woodley.

SCORPIO (10/23-11/21) — Despite negative critical reception and the low quality of previous X-Men films, you’ll take the family to see “X-Men: Apocalypse” this weekend. You’ll be surprised when, five minutes into the trailers, the actual apocalypse begins when the film’s titular villain appears and slaughters all the empty seats in the theater. Lucky for you, the villain’s gaudy, oversized battle armor will prevent him from seeing your family and you’ll be able to escape into a sold-out showing of “The Angry Birds Movie.”

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/22) — Your summer wardrobe will include pastel shorts, bow ties and light sport coats after you inadvertently attend a fashion show at the local police headquarters. Known as a “prep walk,” law enforcement’s intent was to deter crime by shamelessly parading accused criminals in front of the news media, but no one could have predicted the fashion statement the Circle K robber would make, having terrorized a cashier with a croquet bat while wearing a sleek pair of loafers and matching belt.

CAPRICORN (12/23-1/19) — A Saturday trip to the farmer’s market will devolve into a juvenile culinary quest after you happen upon an eggplant that strongly resembles the male sex organ. Inspired, you’ll inspect each and every vegetable onsite in a spontaneous mission to cook an anatomical ratatouille for an upcoming dinner party. Your meal will come together after you find at least a half dozen tomatoes that look like butts and misshapen peppers that could easily pass for deformed heads. You’ll have to combine garlic cloves and zucchini to get something resembling a foot with toes, but the breast onions will really firm up the entire recipe.

AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18) — In an attempt to save taxpayer

money while simultaneously reducing, reusing and recycling, you decide to offer the community a natural alternative to indigent burials and cremations. It may take years to catch on, but backyard gardeners and factory farmers alike will eventually praise the benefits of your Corpse Compost®, finding the decomposed remains of human bodies are actually rich with nutrients and balanced with trace minerals. After a little work in the lab, you’ll also attempt to market your eco-friendly Carcass Oil® as a diesel alternative.

PISCES (2/19-3/20) — While the foreign nation of Georgia wasn’t your first pick as ground zero in the meat revolution, you’ll join the coming war between herbivores and carnivores nonetheless. Now that “extremists” wielding grilled meat and sausages have stormed a vegan café, the unrest across the globe will reach a tipping point — forcing you to choose sides in a conflict that pits brother against less-masculine brother. As the sun rises, you’ll lead an angry mob into the heart of the city in a convoy of Oscar Mayer wienermobiles.

ARIES (3/21-4/19) — After decades in darkness, the followers of the Crimson Tide will rid themselves of the ultimate persecution as CBS Sportscaster Verne Lundquist reveals his plans to retire after the 2016 college football season. Knowing they will soon see an end to overtly biased and arguably violent comments like, “Alabama is not currently winning” and “Nick Saban MIGHT BE the best coach ever,” fans in the very near future may once again feel safe allowing children to listen to televised broadcasts of the greatness that is the Tide.

TAURUS (4/20-5/20) — You’ll realize the true tragedy of getting your significant other into video games this weekend, as you finally lose in a digitized domestic dispute for the ages. While you’ll first feel a sense of pride at the depths of your despair, it will ultimately be drowned in the flood of rage that inevitably consumes you. After hours in silence, you’ll realize the only logical solution is that your partner found some way to hack into the system and cheat to secure the victory. I mean, they must have ... right?



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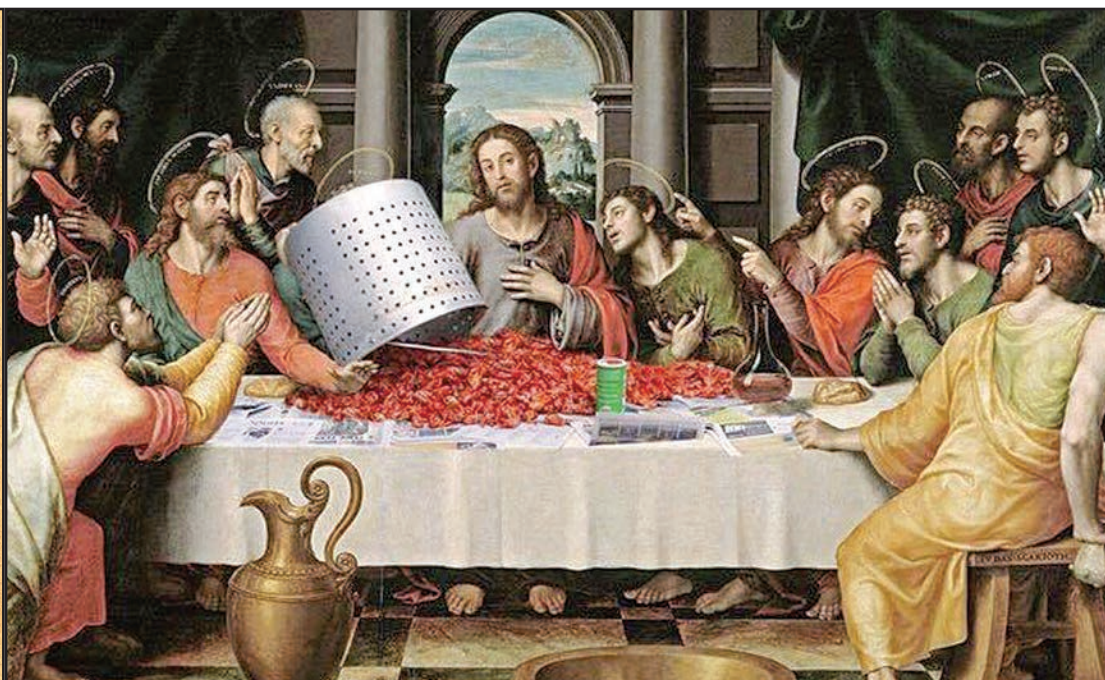
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BY BOOZIE BEER NUES/SOCIAL BUTTERFLY



LOCAL INTERNET JOKESTERS MEMED IN DEFENSE OF THE UBIQUITOUS PUBLIC CRAWFISH BOIL AFTER THE MOBILE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S RECENT ENFORCEMENT THREATS.

Sweet, sweet summertime! Oh, how I have missed you! So glad you could make it back again this year. Boozie would love to spend every day, all day with you, Summer, but I just don't think I could handle it. I barely survived a three-day weekend with you, imagine if every day was like the weekend, we would both be in some trouble. So until we meet again — this weekend! — I'll reminisce about the times we shared.

Cray-cray for crawfish

Lagniappe reported last week about the crackdown on free crawfish boils at downtown bars. Since Boozie loves crawfish and beer, I hated to see the crawfish boils be pushed out. Of course, people took to the internet to express their rage and how they hate that Mobile is losing a springtime favorite. With any good upset follows some pretty entertaining memes. Here are the two Boozie found most humorous.

Beach, please

From beach to beach, the Gulf was hoppin' this past weekend. While Boozie can't be in two places at once, the spies

were able to fill in and had no problem doing so. With Memorial Day being the kickoff to summer, I would say we are off to a pretty good start.

Over in Baldwin County — once you finally got there — Boozie believes the party never really stopped after Hangout the weekend before. One spy reported it took three hours to get to OBA but it was all worth it because Flora-Bama was the place to be, as it was packed to the gills with people who love to party. The next day the spies were off to Robinson Island and Pirate’s Cove; neither disappointed and both were crowded with, you guessed it, more people that liked to party. The spies like to party so much that they forgot the juicy details from the weekend. Shakin’ my head ...

Saturday night, The Wharf was packed for Lee Brice, Tyler Farr and Randy Rogers. My concert spies said even though Brice doesn't dance they couldn't help but sing along and dance. The spies also said he chugged a tall boy while onstage. That's my kind of concert and even my "Drinking Class." My spies also mentioned attire for the girls didn't change much from Hangout; short jean shorts and cropped tops were still a hit, but most traded in their flip-flops for cowboy boots.

Now, we can't forget about Dauphin Island, can we? DI was hopping last weekend, too. Sand Island probably had as many boats as Robinson Island, and the public beach and The West End didn't lack folks, either. Boozie thinks it's safe to assume the beautiful weather had everyone out and about.

The “sunset capital of Alabama” had some people who were really feeling the romantic vibe of the beach. One couple was making out in the water and then somehow the lady’s knees ended up by her hubby’s ears. Boozie’s friends joked that he was ready to dive into summer. Another couple was spotted making out, but they must have been nervous about deeper water so they stuck to knee-deep water to get in some smooches and butt grabs. Summer lovin’ is definitely in full swing.

Another DI spy reported seeing some folks driving what appeared to be a large cooler – yes, some sort of car made out of a cooler. My spy said it appeared to be going about 30 mph too. Driving on top of the influence?

Well, kids, that's all I've got this week. Just remember, whether rain or shine, dramatic or scandalous, or just some plain ol' summer lovin', I will be there. Ciao!

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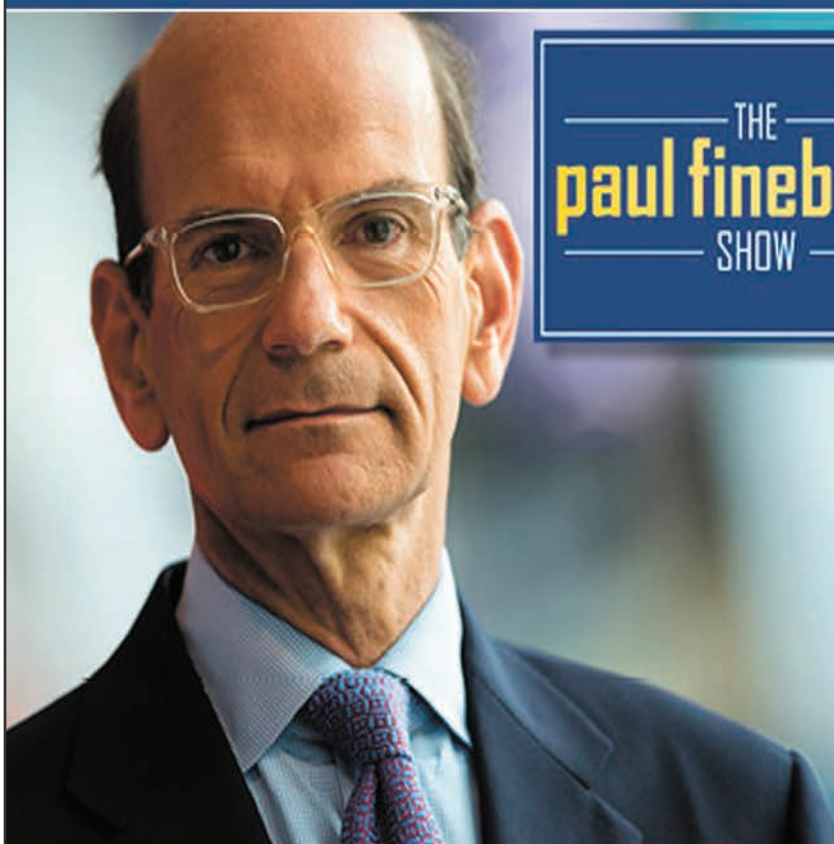
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