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WORD ON THE STREET

COMPILED
BY ERICA
WRIGHT

We asked Birmingham-area residents:

After COVID-19, will we ever return to what normal used to be?



ANNA LISA CIACCIO: *"Honestly, I think that we should shut the entire state down again. If you look at countries like Singapore that modeled early intervention methods, they flattened their curve early on. I don't really know what the solution is at this point, but I don't think we're going to be back to normal for a long time."*



KASIA GONNERNAN: *"I think we retraced our steps a little bit and went in the wrong direction by opening back up. I think we need to rethink on how we are re-opening places and be more cautious and continue taking precautions and staying at home when necessary and waiting and hoping for a vaccine to come."*



BARBARA AGE: *"I think we are going to have to continue to make adjustments and it's going to be a new normal from here on out. I believe the same things we were doing prior to COVID-19 as far as having large gatherings and big events . . . are not going to work anymore because you can't interact in the same ways you could before."*



LAKEISHA WRIGHT: *"I think we're going to have to get adjusted to what a new normal will look like after this pandemic has impacted the entire country. I see us trying to do some of the familiar things we were doing, but I don't see it as the same, I see it as getting acquainted with a new norm and then becoming comfortable with that."*

ON THE COVER

In the aftermath in Birmingham, residents are lending a hand to clean up and artists are lending spray paint cans and paintbrushes to make a district dormant from damage and COVID-19 vibrant again. Urban Standard, 2nd Avenue North, downtown Birmingham. (AMEERA STEWARD, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES) **FOR MORE ON BLM MURALS IN BIRMINGHAM, SEE PAGE 12.**

BIRMINGHAM

Area students combat littering in metro area

Special to the Times

Litter Quitters launched in 2018 as a pilot project for high schools within the Valley Creek Watershed. The project was so well received that it was expanded to include all 30 public high schools located in Jefferson County.

Representatives from the Litter Quitters committee give presentations to each participating school. The presentations include information about Jefferson County's local waterways and watersheds, litter and its negative impacts on the environment, competition details and how their school can participate.

Each participating school submits one 60-second video into the competition. After content review, the videos are uploaded to the Litter Quitters website for 12 days of voting. Students promote their videos, and the videos with the most 'likes' at the end of the competition win cash prizes.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Litter Quitters had to adapt to school closures. When schools moved to online classes, many students were unable to complete their videos. Of the 25 schools originally set to participate, only three schools were able to complete the project: Woodlawn, Ramsay, and George W. Carver High Schools.

Woodlawn High School's video received the most likes and was awarded a \$1,000 cash prize. In a sign of the times, this video showed how masks and gloves were being littered in parking lots and other places.

Littering is a major problem throughout Jefferson County and local governments waste significant tax dollars cleaning up roads and other public areas. Nationally, cleaning up litter costs taxpayers and businesses \$11.5 billion each year. In addition, litter degrades water quality in creeks and streams, harms humans and animals, and affects property values and quality of life. Litter Quitters was created to spread the word that littering is costly, dangerous, and . . . stupid.

Age and maturity are major factors in the profile of a litterer. The most frequent culprits are teenagers and young adults. This age group is more than three times more likely to litter than older adults and that is why this campaign focuses on this demographic.

About four years ago, a group of like-minded organizations came together to create a community outreach and public awareness campaign to encourage everyone, but especially high school students, to stop littering. The Litter Quitters anti-littering campaign is a project spearheaded by the Jefferson County Conservation District in partnership with a number of entities including City of Birmingham, City of Bessemer, City of Hoover, City of Leeds, Creative Directions, Inc., Freshwater Land Trust, Jefferson County Commission, Jefferson County Department of Health.

Holly Killian with the Jefferson County Conservation District said, "We were thrilled that we were able to complete the competition in light of the COVID-19 pandemic going on around us. The students worked so hard on these videos and they all did excellent work! We are looking forward to the 2021 Litter Quitters competition when even more schools can participate."

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BIRMINGHAM

City projects \$75M revenue loss; mayor cites COVID-19

BY ERICA WRIGHT

The Birmingham Times

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the City of Birmingham is projected to have a \$75 million revenue shortfall and may have to suspend merit pay for city employees, Mayor Randall Woodfin announced on Tuesday.

"Since March, because businesses have had to close, we've seen a decrease in occupational taxes and sales taxes, in addition to that, some businesses have closed permanently such as Lucy's, Urban Standard and Babalu," said Woodfin. "When all of these things happen, there is a ripple that affects the City of Birmingham. We don't receive business licenses anymore, we don't receive occupational and sales taxes, we don't have events in our city, we don't receive lodging taxes and that causes a decrease in the funding we bring in."

Woodfin said the funding has decreased steadily at about 20 percent for the last two months and if that holds that shortfall could impact city workers.

"I shared some tough news with employees this morning . . . we have to sus-



MAYOR RANDALL WOODFIN

pend merit pay, cost of living adjustment and longevity pay," the mayor said.

Due to the uncertainty of its finances, the city has already postponed its FY 2021 budget to August 20 with the budget going into effect October 1.

According to the Mayor-Council Act, the mayor must present his budget to the council by May 20 each year, before the fiscal year begins July 1.

"Because of the financial constraints we're in, we have to make this tough decision," said Woodfin. "That is in exchange for making sure our employees can stay employed as well as continue to provide basic services. I'm confident we will push through this and I'm hoping things maybe change six months from now or even three months from now."

"We exist to provide basic services to our citizens and that has to be done. We hope to not have to cut basic services but when you have a \$75 million shortfall, everything is on the table," he said.

MONUMENT FINE

In another matter, the City Council voted to pay the \$25,000 fine that was levied against the city following the removal of the Confederate monument in Linn Park.

In 2017, the Alabama Legislature passed a law that protects historical structures, such as monuments or other statues that

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MAYOR RANDALL WOODFIN

have been on public property for 40 or more years.

On May 31, protestors gathered in Linn Park for a peaceful demonstration. Efforts were made to remove the 52-foot obelisk, as demonstrators chipped away at the base and even tied ropes to the structure. During the event, Woodfin told supporters he would "finish the job" and remove the monument in a "safe and controlled environment."

Following this move, Alabama's Attorney General filed a lawsuit against the city for removing the monument and violating the state law that was passed three years prior. Tuesday's vote settles that lawsuit and the money will go towards the state's Historic Preservation Fund.

Lawyers with bar association offering pro bono help to most protesters

BY ERICA WRIGHT

The Birmingham Times

The Magic City Bar Association (MCBA) has established an ongoing Protest Protection Plan (PPP) to help provide free legal representation to many Birmingham protesters arrested during demonstrations.

"This plan has two phases and the phase we're in right now is where our members provide pro-bono representation or free legal services for people who are arrested for protesting itself or people arrested for things related to the protest like disorderly conduct," said attorney Christopher Burrell of Burrell & McCants LLC, president of MCBA, which has about 400 members and is made up of Black lawyers.

The first phase is proactive and partners with community groups and leaders to encourage organized and effective protests and to educate citizens on their rights when protesting and mediation with local governments, Burrell said.

"We will be doing social media community workshops to advise people of their rights and different ways they can protest," said Burrell, who added the plan is to start that once large gatherings can assemble. "Right now but we will start by putting some stuff on social media and telling people basic information about their rights."

The second phase is reactive which provides pro bono criminal defense representation to those arrested or charged, provide representation or referrals to those seeking



Attorney Christopher Burrell of Burrell & McCants LLC, president of MCBA. (PROVIDED PHOTO)

civil actions and assist litigation efforts to challenge laws, ordinances and policies.

"While we seek to support individuals engaged in responsible and organized protests, we will nonetheless assist in providing representation or referrals for all individuals in protest settings, recognizing the citizens right to counsel and the history of certain people being disproportionately prosecuted or punished," said Burrell. "The MCBA does not condone violent or destructive protests."

Demonstrations and arrests grew following the deaths of George Floyd, a Minneapolis man killed by police in May; Rayshard Brooks, an Atlanta man killed by police in June and Breonna Taylor, a Louisville woman killed by police in her home in March.

As the arrests of protesters increased,

Burrell said the MCBA saw a need.

"We wanted to make sure that people who were lawfully protesting had representation and secondly, there were a number of people that we know, African Americans in particular who are historically overcharged and underrepresented," he said.

Approximately 20 attorneys are on retainer to help with a diverse number of protesters who face a range of charges, the most common are disorderly conduct or failure to obey an officer, said Burrell.

MCBA has worked with some local activists to identify demonstrators who need legal representation.

"There may be some cases where we won't provide pro bono representation but we will nonetheless assist in referring to an attorney," Burrell said. Those are often situations where the charges involve violence and "we may decline representation on those cases and refer them to an attorney who can assist them but of course it will be their responsibility to pay and retain that attorney," he said.

Burrell said the MCBA was founded to address the needs of African American attorneys and the community at large. "We want to encourage the community to know their rights as it relates to protesting, we want them to protest responsibly and we want them to know they can come to us as a resource and we're more than happy to help."

For more, visit the Magic City Bar Association at www.magiccitybarassociation.org.

Birmingham Times captures top awards from Alabama Press Association

The Birmingham Times staff

The Birmingham Times Media Group (BTMG) won 1st place awards for Best News Feature Story; Best Education Coverage; Best Layout and Design; and Best Newspaper Website in the 2020 Alabama Press Association Media Awards, the organization announced Friday.

The Mississippi Press Association judged the competition that included nearly 3,000 entries submitted by 98 publications.

The Times won a total of 10 awards including 3rd place for General Excellence.

The winning story for Best News Feature was titled "Hidden Pain: Surviving Sexual Abuse" and written by freelancer Je'Don Holloway Talley. The series of articles shared the stories of Birmingham-area women and their experiences of how sexual assault had an impact on them as they grew into adults.

Talley began her series: "Gone are the days of silence and shame in the face of sexual assault and misconduct. America is slowly adapting to a new narrative for survivors of sexual abuse — one that empowers, vocalizes, and offers cathartic relief."

Since The Birmingham Times was rebranded in 2016 the media publisher has won nearly two dozen journalism awards in national and state contests including 1st place awards for General Excellence; Best Feature Story and Best Layout and Design.

"I am excited to be recognized by the Alabama Press Association for the work we do here in Birmingham," said Sam Martin, president and publisher of the BTMG. "Our dedicated team of editors and journalists work hard every day to inform our community and it's good to see that work recognized by others. We congratulate and thank our Times team and the support we have received from readers."

The Birmingham Times was recognized by the APA in these categories:

- Best Education Coverage (1st place)

- Best Layout and Design (1st place)

(Kathryn Sesser Dorne)

- Best News Feature Story Coverage (1st place)

- Hidden Pain (Je'Don Holloway Talley)

- Best Newspaper Website (1st place)

- Best Feature Story Coverage (2nd place)

"Working Hard for All of Us" (Ameera Steward)

- Best Production and Printing (2nd place)

- General Excellence (3rd place)

- Best Headline (3rd place)

Painting The Town, (Kathryn Sesser Dorne)

- Best Lifestyle/Family Pages (3rd place)

- Best Sports Feature, Bring It On (staff).



JEFFERSON COUNTY

FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED IN MOST PUBLIC SPACES

BY MICHAEL TOMBERLIN

Alabama Newscenter

Jefferson County required face coverings in most indoor public places that began at 5 p.m. June 29 and will last until the county health officer deems public safety no longer requires it in the fight against COVID-19.

Jefferson County Health Officer Dr. Mark Wilson announced the new order at a news conference today. Under the order, anyone over the age of 8 must wear a face covering inside virtually all public places in the county as well as inside any public transportation or ride-share vehicles. Face coverings will be required in outdoor spaces where 10 or more are gathered and unable to maintain separation of at least six feet.

A few exceptions include houses of worship, schools, and day care and child care facilities, which will have their own rules and guidelines.

"The spread of COVID-19 is getting worse in Jefferson County, unfortunately," Wilson said. "Things are moving in the wrong direction and I'm very concerned."

Businesses and venues open to the public must post a notice of the face-covering requirement at their entrances.

"I've done a lot of thinking about this. I've been getting a lot of input about this," Wilson said. "Unfortunately, it's become a controversial issue and it really should not. This is public health, this is science, this is doing what's right for our community based on the best information we have about how



Jefferson County Health Officer Dr. Mark Wilson announced face coverings are required in most indoor public places. (TIMES FILE PHOTO)

to protect people from the spread of disease. I've heard a lot of concerns from people about their personal liberty. I've also heard a lot of concerns from people who do not feel safe going into public places and they feel that their personal liberty has been limited because others are not wearing face coverings to keep them safe."

Dr. Michael Saag, professor of medicine in UAB's Division of Infectious Diseases and a COVID-19 survivor, said doing nothing will only see the number of cases continue to rise until an already stretched health care system could become overwhelmed.

"This virus doesn't care about rules and ordinances," Saag said. "It just wants to infect people and it's pretty good at it."

Businesses and places open to the public in Jefferson County are required to post the requirement to wear a mask at entrances. (Jefferson County Department of Public Health)

Saag said masks make those who are infected less likely to spread it to others by limiting the size of the environment around them that they infect.

"Think of an infected person as someone who has a cloud around them," he said, noting that the size of the cloud depends on the level of face covering they are wearing.

Saag said those infected transmit the virus even when they don't have symptoms. He said they are most likely to transmit the disease in the 24 hours before they become sick.

By doing what he calls the public's "patriotic duty" to wear face coverings, Saag said hundreds of lives could be saved.

Wilson went further, saying it's not just patriotic, it's humane.

"But what I keep hearing is people saying, 'It should be my decision about what I do. It's my life. I should be free to make my own choices,'" Wilson said. "And I'm afraid that people are failing to recognize it's not just about you, it's about us. It's about caring for others. Dr. Saag said it's patriotic. I agree with that. I think it's also just basic kindness and decency for our brothers and sisters in our community."

Wilson said what amounts to a minor inconvenience for some to wear a face covering could result in a reduction in the trans-

mission of COVID-19 by 50%, according to research.

"So, to me, from a science standpoint, from a medical decision standpoint and a public health standpoint, it's an easy decision," he said.

Wilson said the current order doesn't apply to the city of Birmingham, which has its own face-covering requirement that runs through July 3. After that order expires, Wilson said the portion of Birmingham in the county will fall under the county order.

Wilson called on the public and the mayors of cities in Jefferson County to cooperate with the new order. He would like to see a similar order for the entire state.

"I think it would be great if this could be done statewide," he said. "The entire state of Alabama is in trouble. I hope maybe we can get to that point."

Saag said even if people in the state started doing the right things today, the cases will continue to rise for at least the next couple of weeks. That's because those who were infected yesterday will likely not start to exhibit symptoms for two weeks.

"We've got a lot of work in front of us and we've got to work as a community to make that happen," he said.

Saag said it's demoralizing for health care workers who watch patients die from COVID-19 and then go out in public and see people not doing something as minimal as wearing a face covering to protect others.

"Frankly, that's frustrating to me and I'd like to see it change," he said.

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We encourage you to celebrate safely.

Due to the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases, we are asking that people continue to take the necessary precautions like maintaining social distancing.

There is currently a face covering ordinance in effect for Jefferson County, and Governor Kay Ivey's Safer At Home Order has been extended through **July 31st.**

Have a happy holiday weekend, and stay safe Birmingham!



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AN EYE ON BIRMINGHAM: CELEBRATING SPECIAL CITIZENS

Ankrehah 'Kre' Johnson: The ministry of medicine

BY ERICA WRIGHT
The Birmingham Times

As a doctor, Ankrehah "Kre" Trimble Johnson was particularly saddened when 17-year-old Courtlin Arrington, a student at Huffman High School, was killed in 2018. Arrington, shot by a classmate at the school, had hopes of becoming a nurse.

"The first thing we started doing was the Courtlin Arrington Scholarship ... for Birmingham City Schools [BCS] girls who were interested in going into the field of medicine," said Johnson, president and owner of Brownstone Healthcare and Aesthetics, a family medicine practice in Trussville, Alabama.

Not long thereafter, Johnson founded Three Twenty Girls Inc. — the name comes from her favorite scripture, Ephesians 3:20 (New International Version): "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." The organization became a nonprofit in 2020, but the scholarships in Arrington's memory began two years ago.

Johnson, practicing at St. Vincent's East Hospital (SVE) at the time, said Arrington's death hit home for another reason.

"[Our offices were] in close proximity to Huffman, so [the shooting] happened in our neighborhood. [Plus], she wanted to be a nurse, and even that was like, 'Oh, my God, she had a bright future,'" Johnson said. "I just wanted to try to turn something that was a tough situation into something positive, ... to say, 'Let's keep her memory going in a positive light.'"

Johnson is a firm believer in emphasizing the positive and giving back to both her community and her patients.

"Without good doctors that look like me and look like the patients I serve, people wouldn't get good care — good care by someone they feel understands them," she said. "It's an individualized approach to medicine, and it's important because, yes, you need doctors, but you need doctors that listen. I try to be that doctor that is going to listen to my patients."

WIFEOLGY

In addition to running her medical practice and nonprofit organization, Johnson hosts the Wifeology Conference in Birmingham. The annual gathering, which began in 2018, encourages wives to practice more self-care, "to renew and rejuvenate before going back into doing everything and being superwoman for everyone else," she said.

The weekend-long retreat, usually held in June, draws women from across the U.S. The first year attracted 25 participants, and the second drew more than 60. This year, more than 100 tickets were sold, but the conference has been rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Oftentimes, working wives are doing everything for everyone else, and they don't take the time out to do anything for themselves," she said. "A lot of my doctor friends come in and talk about things like ditching mommy guilt, how to stay cute after having children, how to make intimacy a priority."



"A part of the mission of Three Twenty is to provide girls interested in medicine and business mentors in their fields, giving girls in our community access to people who can answer their questions, help guide them, and bridge that gap for them."

ANKREHAH 'KRE' TRIMBLE JOHNSON

Johnson — who will celebrate her eighth wedding anniversary with her husband, Jay, in September; they have one daughter, Zoe, 6, and he has a son from a previous relationship, London, 21 — said she began the conference after learning that a lot of her married and single female patients were struggling.

"They were doing high-level work, like management, but they were stressed out. ... The prescription [was to] step back from what you have going on and take a break," she said. "Do something for yourself."

SOUTHERN GIRL

Johnson, 39, grew up in Marion. She is the oldest of three children, and both of her parents are educators. She attended schools where they taught and was with them non-stop from elementary to high school.

"From there, they had me involved in a lot of activities every summer, when I got of age. I couldn't stay around town because it was very small, so I ended up in a lot of

different summer programs," she said, which meant softball, marching and concert bands, alto saxophone and piano at church.

Johnson's mother, Cathy, taught health. Her father, Anthony, taught physical education and is also pastor at First Baptist Church of Uniontown, in Uniontown, Alabama, right outside of Marion — and her father's ministry inspired her love for medicine.

"My dad had to visit the sick and shut-in people from church, and I would go with him and ask a lot of questions: 'What is this? What's that? What's wrong with you?' I learned a lot about sickness and illness from going on those visits with him," she said. "I learned that medicine is a ministry more than we know."

After graduating third in her class from Frances Marion High School, she almost attended the University of Alabama — until she visited Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, which felt like home: "I thought [Spelman] was teaching these girls how to be women, how to be brave and strong," she

ANKREHAH 'KRE' TRIMBLE JOHNSON

Ankrehah "Kre" Trimble Johnson graduated third in her class from Frances Marion High School, she almost attended the University of Alabama — until she visited Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, which felt like home completed her residency in 2012 in Birmingham at St. Vincent's East Hospital, where she operated her practice for seven years before moving to Trussville in 2019. In addition to running her medical practice and nonprofit organization, Johnson hosts the Wifeology Conference in Birmingham. The annual gathering, which began in 2018, encourages wives to practice more self-care, "to renew and rejuvenate before going back into doing everything and being superwoman for everyone else," she said.

said. "I thought, 'This is where I need to be.'"

Johnson's experience at the renowned Historically Black College and University (HBCU) was one of a kind.

"Whatever you wanted to learn about, it was there," she said. "I participated in the Health Careers Club because that was going to get me to my goal, and my parents said they were paying for four years — not a day over."

"I was really academically focused, ... [and] I joined the gospel choir. ... There was a lot of camaraderie at Spelman, with us being sisters. We had a sisterhood, we looked out for each other, and [we] did everything with the guys from [nearby] Morehouse [College]."

FAMILY MEDICINE

Once in medical school, Johnson chose family medicine as her specialty.

"I picked family medicine because I did a rotation in Marion, Alabama, at the [Vaughan Marion Rural Clinic] early in my fourth year of medical school, and the elderly people there were just everything," she said. "They brought us jelly, fresh fruit, things out of their gardens. I thought I wanted to be a pediatrician my whole life until I did that rotation."

Johnson completed her residency in 2012 in Birmingham at St. Vincent's East Hospital, where she operated her practice for seven years before moving to Trussville in 2019.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Johnson said she has had to really pivot. Her practice was closed for two weeks in March, and her staff of three transitioned into telehealth visits, conducted via video and phone.

"We were met with a lot of challenges trying to get patients to be able to be seen in the safety of their homes," Johnson said. "A lot of practices like my own were affected because we still had people to care for but couldn't be reimbursed for it because insurance didn't deem these as appropriate visits, so insurance companies had to get creative."

Prior to the health crisis, Johnson saw 50 to 60 people in a week, but she now sees about 25 to 30 people a week; her patients have the option to continue video visits or to visit in person.

Despite these challenges, she won't let anything slow her work with the next generation and aspiring nurses through her nonprofit.

"A part of the mission of Three Twenty is to provide girls interested in medicine and business mentors in their fields, giving girls in our community access to people who can answer their questions, help guide them, and bridge that gap for them."

For more on Kre Johnson visit www.doctorkre.com.

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The Vault Bar & Lounge

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Williams Landscape Services

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First Impressions Marketing Group, LLC
LRY Media Group

MEDIA- PRINT

The Birmingham Market
The Birmingham Times

MEDIA- RADIO

Chris Coleman Radio Network
Vital Talk Show
Courtney French Broadcasting, LLC

MEDIA- TV

The Joe Lockett Show

MUSEUMS

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
Negro Southern League Museum

PHOTOGRAPHERS

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D Jerome Smedley Photography Studio
Sam Jasper Photography LLC

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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REAL ESTATE- CONSULTING

Scott Real Estate Valuation & Consulting

REALTY CONJNpanies

Barnes and Associates
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REALTORS

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Class Act Studio- Mary Kay
L & O Greek Specialties
Paul Anthony Coordinated Apparel
Sister Dear Boutique/ Mary Kay
Sonya Faye's Tailor & Clothier

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Apple Dumpling Bar
Creative Catering By Ambrosia
Destiny's On the One
Eugene's Hot Chicken
Green Acres Cafe
Kat's Kreations Soul Food & Catering
Perfect Note
Rally's
Tillie's Cafe
Waffle Works

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NAACP
Sickle Cell Foundation
United Negro College Fund Inc.
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WELDERS

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HEALTH

4 TIPS TO EAT HEALTHIER WHEN ORDERING TAKEOUT OR FOOD DELIVERY: Dining in at home with your favorite takeout or food delivery? Our simple tips will help you make healthier choices when ordering out. Check online. Some menus have symbols or designations to let you know which options are healthier. Or you can look for nutritional information (if provided) on the restaurant's website. Ask for help. If you can't figure out what's in a menu item or if you want to learn more about it, just ask! Restaurant staff can help you navigate the menu and tell you about ingredients, preparation methods or substitutions. Half now, half later. Portion size too big? Try saving half of your food for another meal. Sauce on the side. When in doubt, ask for dressings and sauces on the side. You'll control how much you add to your food.

New mask requirements for Jefferson County

Only two states, Connecticut and Rhode Island, are reporting a decline in new coronavirus cases compared to the spiking numbers now being reported in southern and western states. Florida has seen its confirmed cases more than double in a week, from June 19 to Friday, June 26, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

The ex-head, Dr. Thomas Frieden, of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states the new spiking numbers being seen around the country are real and not an anomaly related to testing numbers. He further predicts the spreading of more cases and deaths. He says deaths are not yet spiking because deaths lag infections by one month. He predicts our nation will see 15,000 deaths in July.

He also said on Fox News that "This virus has the upper hand." He feels the southern state's cases are rising because of their hasty openings. The phrase many coined "open does not mean over" appears to be quite appropriate even for Alabama. These nationwide spiking daily numbers has prompted many cities and counties to mandate wearing a face covering when in public spaces. Some areas in Florida have established \$500 fines for mask rule violations.

The Alabama Department of Public Health reported 964 new coronavirus cases in

our state on Friday, June 26. It was the third highest daily number since the pandemic.

Jefferson County, where Birmingham is located, added the most new cases in Alabama on Friday. It reported 149 cases in a single day.

Because Jefferson County continues to see an increase of coronavirus cases, Dr. Mark Wilson, Jefferson County Health Officer has issued an order requiring face covering/mask to be worn when in public places in Jefferson County, Alabama. The order went into effect Monday, June 29 at 5 p.m. Wilson said,

"This order shall remain in effect until I've determined that public health conditions in the county warrant discontinuation or change in the order."

The order defines a face covering/mask as a device to cover the nose and mouth of a person to impede the spread of saliva or other fluids during speaking, coughing, sneezing or other intentional or involuntary action. Medical grade masks are not required and are, in fact, discouraged for us under the Order, because they are in short supply and should generally be reserved for high-risk first responders and health care workers or those coming into direct contact with suspected COVID-19 patients.

Coverings may be fashioned from scarves, bandanas, or other suitable fabrics.



BY SAMUETTA HILL DREW



The face covering must cover the mouth and nose of the wearer.

Face covering are required by the Order at the following public spaces:

a. *Indoor spaces of businesses or venues open to the general public, including but not limited to stores, bars and restaurants (see exception 3b) entertainment venues, public meeting spaces, government buildings, civic centers, etc.*

b. *Transportation services available to the general public, including mass transit, para-transit, taxi, or ride-sharing services.*

c. *Outdoor areas open to the general public where 10 or more persons are gathered and unable to maintain social distance of six (6) or more feet between persons not from the same household.*

There are some exceptions to the

order. One of these exceptions addresses children two years of age and under. Face coverings or masks may pose a risk of choking, strangulation, or suffocation to infants and young toddlers. Do not focus on them wearing cute masks matching their outfits. This is not about making a fashion statement, but safe health practices. Carriers and strollers with covers that allow the child to breathe comfortably are recommended as safe alternatives.

Other exceptions address eating or drinking, medical examination or procedures, hair care services and more.

To help Keep an Eye on Safety during this pandemic in Jefferson County I encourage everyone to go online to read the entire order for yourselves.

SMOKING CESSATION TREATMENT

Do you smoke cigarettes and want to QUIT?

The University of Alabama at Birmingham is offering a NO COST research treatment program for smokers. This study combines medication and counseling treatment.

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HEALTH

Suicide in Black children once unheard of. Not any more

In 2016, a study was published in the medical journal *Pediatrics*, which found that Black kids 5 to 12 years old were two times more likely to die by suicide compared to white youth in the same age group.

Did you hear that? Suicide in Black children 5-12. Who remembers when suicide by a Black child was unheard of?

I have written, recently, about the impact that the times we are living in, on the young people around our homes and communities, and the longer this pandemic, and all the other disruptions to our lives, I am becoming increasingly concerned that we could easily "lose" a generation, if we don't pay attention.

In the study that I mentioned, the researchers found that white and Black children who died by suicide had several things in common. Most of them were male, most of them died at home and about one-third of them had been previously diagnosed with a mental disorder. Of those 5 to 12-year-old children who were previously diagnosed as having a mental illness, 60 percent of them had attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), only 33 percent had depression. Sadly, the study even found that 29 percent of these children told someone about their suicidal intentions. They were also more likely to have a problem or a conflict with a family member or friend prior to death, and if they

did have a mental health problem and even sadder, no one listened.

Think about a child that young committing suicide. At that age, how reasonable is to expect that attempting to handle the stresses, challenges, and demands of the world they are born into is a Herculean task for the best-prepared adult. At that age, the child's brain is still developing, cognitively. Children who die by suicide are more vulnerable as a group to respond and/or process interpersonal challenges in a healthy way. The result is a total inability to cope; leading to hopelessness.

These facts apply to all children from the study; Black and white. But the researchers did find one distinct difference. These young children who died by suicide were far more likely to be Black than white children. This surprised the researchers, since suicide rates for this age group are traditionally higher in whites. However, it is in line with recent data finding a definite rise in the number of suicides in Black children and a drop in white children.

OK folks, now who's talking to our children during these times? Relationships with teachers, school personnel, crossing guards, bus drivers, friends, everything disrupted. Some young children are, just recently, emerging from the "shelter in place" for several months; cramped (in many cases) in tight living quarters with adults who are struggling spending such extended time



BY GLENN ELLIS

News of doom and gloom with this pandemic, is freaking most of us adults out. Imagine what must be going on in the mind of our children.

under these conditions.

We must not forget that the media barrage of constant news of doom and gloom with this pandemic, is freaking most of us adults out. Imagine what must be going on in the mind of our children. Are we talking to them? Do we ask them to share what they are having trouble with? Are we paying attention to whether they are having trouble sleeping or eating? Are we paying attention to our children?

This is serious. A recent story on NBC News shocked, while making my heart drop: "A study commissioned by the Congressional Black Caucus shows in recent years self-reported suicide attempts by Black teens increased by 73 percent. The rate decreased for white teens. Black children younger than 13 were twice as likely to die by suicide than white children."

How did we, as a community, find ourselves here? Elementary aged youth almost never die by suicide, but now, those who do are more likely to be African American. Most people assume that homicide is the number one killer in the USA. Wrong. In the USA, the suicide rate is almost 2.3 times as high as the homicide rate. In a world which has,

increasingly, become more and more of a dangerous place to be if you're a Black boy, our children are growing up petrified with fear for their lives. It's subtle; they go through their days seemingly unfazed, as an innocent child; but these children see things. They know when they hear gunshots; the news of another family friend or relative being victim to the virus. Too much to expect a child between the age of 5-12 to handle; especially a Black child in this society.

I am inspired by so many, like my dear friend, Dr. Belita Webb, who has spent a lifetime uplifting, and "listening" to our children. In a recent conversation, she asked, "when are you going to write about the children? No one is talking to them."

Please be sure that as we move forward, whatever school will "look like," advocate that the appropriate behavioral health supports are in place to promote and protect your child's mental health. Social determinants of health have long ago been identified as central to health outcomes. Now, more than ever, we need to assess the "social determinants" in our children's lives.

I am hopeful that my writing, and all of us paying more attention to our children. Let's lobby, let's advocate, let's protect, and let's love our children.

Glenn Ellis, is a Harvard Medical School Research Bioethics Fellow and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com.

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LifeSouth Community Blood Center Blood Drive at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Hoover on March 30, 2020. From side, a line of outstretched arms of people donating blood. (UAB PHOTO)

BLOOD SUPPLY SUFFERS AS COVID-19 PANDEMIC CONTINUES

BY BOB SHEPARD
UAB News

This is not a good time to need a blood transfusion. Summer typically sees a decrease in the nation's blood supply, and this summer the situation is seriously complicated by the novel coronavirus pandemic. Simply put, there is a severe blood shortage, and Americans are encouraged to donate blood now and throughout the year.

"There is an urgent need for blood products so that hospitals have suitable reserves for those patients who need a blood transfusion, such as those with cancer, sickle cell disease, undergoing emergency surgery, trauma victims or post-partum women," said Marisa Marques, M.D., director of Transfusion Services at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "We are urging citizens to

donate at this time of tremendous need."

As part of recommended social distancing, many frequent or casual blood donors have curtailed their normal activities, including blood donation. However, donating blood can be done safely during the pandemic, as blood collection agencies have implemented multiple strategies to reduce any potential risk of exposure to staff and donors.

Donors can give blood up to six times a year, every eight weeks. If you are healthy, are feeling well, and are eligible to give blood or platelets, please make an appointment to donate. To find a blood drive or fixed donation location, go to the websites of the American Red Cross or LifeSouth Community Blood Centers websites.

The process takes about 45 minutes; the actual blood collection usually takes less than 20 minutes. Donors should bring a photo ID, wear a mask and practice social distancing.

OPINION

Why Donald Trump won't run for a second term

Before the Republican Convention, Donald Trump will make the announcement that he is no longer running for President. As a general rule this announcement doesn't make sense, but under the current circumstances, this announcement does.

Donald Trump's reasons for dropping out will be that he did not plan to run for more than one term. His age level is the reason why he is running one term. Donald Trump is 74 years old, if he was to run and win, he will be 75.

He's going to pretend that all this was his decision. The only person he would have discussed this with would be his wife prior to his announcement. He would also say that they previously discussed the possibility of one term.

The main reason why he's not running is that he has been thoroughly convinced by key people in the Republican Party that he can't win. The way the winning numbers look at the present time will get worse. Donald Trump can't carry but one state, and that state is Mississippi.

The Republican Party will give him an arm and a leg to get out. They will raise \$25 or \$30 million, and that will be his gift for getting out of the race.

Also, they will make sure that another

ONE MAN'S OPINION



BY DR. JESSE
J. LEWIS

Mike Pence is already campaigning. He is out there by himself; he went to Texas and this week he will be in Florida. He is also wearing a mask and the President isn't even wearing one.

Republican will be the next President of the United States. They are going to convince him that he could go to prison if they don't get a Republican in office. Not only may he be going to prison, but also all of the alleged illegal actions he has done since becoming President will come to light. That will be a lot of laws that he has possibly broken. He doesn't want anyone to know of his finances. If he or another Republican does not win, all these details will be exposed.

The plan is going to be that they will endorse Vice President Mike Pence and his running mate will be Nikki Haley. This will give him great exposure and a hell of a running mate. With these two people on the ticket, they will bring back all the Republican women, young Republicans, college students, and most of the group of voters that Donald Trump has lost.

Mike Pence is already campaigning. He is out there by himself; he went to Texas and this week he will be in Florida. He is also wearing a mask and the President isn't even wearing one. His responsibility would be to campaign for the President about how good he would have been, and he will commit that all those charges that are against Donald Trump he will put a stop to them like they



President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have already started campaigning for the November election. (AP POOL PHOTO)

have been doing before.

Unquestionably, this would be a hurdle Joe Biden in all probability cannot pass over. His age will come up. If Biden is now 77 and it will almost be humanly impossible for him to win a second term at the age of 81.

Down through the years I have written approximately 2,080 articles called One Man's Opinion, and 95 percent of the time,

even though the articles were my opinion, I was hoping that it will come true. This is the only article I have ever written that I pray that doesn't come true, but I got to tell you there is a strong possibility that everything I said will come to reality.

Dr. Jesse J. Lewis is founder and publisher emeritus of The Birmingham Times.

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BIRMINGHAM

‘WORK ON YOURSELF’



BY JE'DON HOLLOWAY-TALLEY
Special to the Birmingham Times

You Had Me at Hello highlights married couples and the love that binds them. If you would like to be considered for a future “Hello” column, or know someone, please send nominations to Erica Wright ewright@birminghamtimes.com. Include the couple's name, contact number(s) and what makes their love story unique.

JERRY AND LA COSTA GASTON JR.

Live: Bessemer

Married: July 10, 2010

Met: Fall 2006, La Costa was visiting Hopewell Baptist Church in Birmingham, which Jerry attended, to rehearse for an annual gospel concert and Jerry sat in on the rehearsal.

Jerry said he noticed La Costa had participated in his church's concert two years in a row and remembered who she was when she in-boxed him on Facebook.

“In 2008, she saw me on Facebook, and that it was my birthday and invited me out,” Jerry remembered.

La Costa recalled the birthday invite as well.

“[Jerry's] best friend was one of my friends on Facebook and I saw that he had tagged Jerry in a birthday post. I clicked on his picture to message him, tell him happy birthday ... we weren't even Facebook friends yet,” La Costa said.

First date: January 2009 at the Cheesecake Factory at the Summit.

La Costa remembers spending “five and half hours, conversing and getting to know each other. We had church in common, we are two church going people so we were talking about church a lot. ... He was cute, he was someone that I could sit and talk to and be myself with,” she said. “And, we shared a piece of red velvet cheesecake.”

Jerry said he didn't want the date to end, “that's why we ended up staying so long. And, it stood out that she picked up the bill. A lot of women have invited me out in the past, and I still had to pay, so that was something,” said Jerry.

“Yes, I stuck to my word,” La Costa said, “I invited him out and I wanted him to have a good time, so even though his birthday [was a few months ago], I still paid.”



Jerry and La Costa Gaston Jr. met in 2006 and married four years later. (PROVIDED PHOTOS)

The turn: La Costa said she first met Jerry's grandmother during a trip to Belle Sumter in 2008 for his uncle's funeral. It was her first time meeting his grandmother and while La Costa and Jerry were sitting in the family room his grandmother kept commenting that La Costa would be her granddaughter ... “we were talking and I didn't have my grandmother anymore so it was nice,” La Costa said.

Although it was the beginning of their courtship, Jerry said that his grandmother's warm interaction with La Costa was a nod in the right direction.

“I had asked the Lord for a sign, and confirmation [that La Costa was the one], and He gave it to me. My grandmother kept saying that [La Costa] was going to be her granddaughter and I told her we were just friends, and she said that's fine, she's still going to be my granddaughter,” said Jerry.

The proposal: July 2, 2009, at Jerry's house in Bessemer. Despite initial intentions to propose while away on a birthday trip in Philadelphia, Mississippi, Jerry could not propose as planned because he had left the ring at home in Bessemer. However, the couple came back home to attend a wedding, and afterwards “I asked her to fix me something to drink, and when she went to the kitchen, I lit a candle, put on some soft music and got down on one knee,” Jerry said. “When she came back in the bedroom, I was

on one knee, and she asked me what I was doing, and I pulled the ring from behind my back and said, “I'm asking you to marry me. Then she cried like a baby and said yes.”

La Costa said she was trying to figure out what was taking place.

“Because of how he had everything set up in Mississippi, I knew it was coming but I didn't know when. When I saw him on one knee, I asked what he was doing because I was shocked and happy,” La Costa said. “It was good emotions all over, and in between tears and laughs, I said yes.”

The wedding: At New Bethlehem Baptist Church in Bessemer. It was officiated by Rev. Dr. William H. Walker Sr. Their colors were rose pink, chocolate and off white.

Most memorable for the bride was realizing she had left her husband's wedding band in her dressing room while taking their nuptials.

“When my pastor was leading up to [the ring exchange] Jerry and I were looking at each other eye to eye, and I froze because I realized I left his ring in my dressing room. ... being the outspoken person I am, I asked my mom out loud in front of everybody to go in my dressing room and get it for me,” La Costa laughed. “And we went on with the ceremony, but when my mom came back with it I held it up high and said ‘haha, I got it now,’ and then I was able to officially place the wedding band on his finger.”



Most memorable for the groom was a sudden case of cold feet. “I was at the hotel by myself and for once in my life I was scared. I had like 40 missed calls, everybody was waiting on me [to arrive at the church],” said Jerry. “I was sitting there thinking I couldn't go through with this, but then I started praying and went on and got in the shower, and after that I went on and went to the church ... when I got there, I had a grand crowd waiting for me outside. La Costa had stopped everything and everybody from getting ready until I showed up. She wasn't very happy, but she understood and we went on with the wedding.”

The couple honeymooned in Detroit, Michigan.

“We went up there for Jerry's cousin's wedding and spent some time alone celebrating ourselves,” said La Costa. “We went to Coney Island [a restaurant chain] and had the best hot dogs...”

Words of wisdom: Not to ever stop dating, La Costa said.

“We will spend time grocery shopping and that will be a date for us, it's about spending time together. And, make sure you have a role model couple that you can go to and talk to that has been in this game [married] for a very long time. And I'm talking 50-plus years, because those are key people who can tell you how to handle the challenging times. And in the words of my pastor [Rev. Dr. William H. Walker Sr.] ‘if you can't get her nothing but a candy bar, get her something to show you still love her.’ That's about being thoughtful of each other and showing you still care,” La Costa said.

Jerry said to not change your spouse. “Let them be who they are because you're going to have a problem trying to change someone else. Work on yourself and let God do the rest.”

Happily ever after: The Gastons have one child, KenDarius Hicks, 19.

La Costa, 39, is a Bessemer native, a Jess Lanier High School grad, who attended Virginia College [Birmingham] where she earned an associate's degree in paralegal studies. She works as an Office Manager for Alabama Wellness and Recovery Services in Birmingham.

Jerry, 36, is an Ensley native and Ensley Magnet High School grad, who works as a Life Insurance Broker in Birmingham.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gastons are both still working from home and in the office.

COVER STORY

LOCAL ARTISTS, VOLUNTEERS PAINT MESSAGES OF HOPE IN CITY

revbirmingham.org

Plywood surrounding businesses and buildings is the opposite of what most people picture when they think of a thriving downtown, but, somehow, Birmingham managed to take an uncertain moment and make it magical. Several businesses were damaged during civil unrest last month, reflecting the worldwide reaction to the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died from police brutality and others like Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery and others who were killed either at the hands of police or by racists.

In the aftermath in Birmingham, residents are lending a hand to clean up and artists are lending their spray paint cans and paintbrushes to make a district dormant from damage and COVID-19 vibrant again.

"Birmingham has proven over and over again that this is a resilient city where people come together to create meaningful change," said David Fleming, REV Birmingham President and CEO. "The many murals spreading across the plywood covering broken windows downtown is further colorful and beautiful proof."

Gusty Gulas, a realtor, is one of those people. He provided plywood to damaged storefronts and formed a group of volunteers who wanted to sweep away debris.

"I sat Sunday night in amazement of what was going on in our city," he said. "We were already coming off of dealing with the pandemic and still dealing with the pandemic. I have had conversations until 1:30 a.m. with some of my friends and I woke up Monday morning and it was kind of heavy on my heart. I knew I was being called to assist and help out in some way."

Gulas amassed more than 100 people to help pick up the pieces starting at California Fashion Mall. On the first day, he said the group helped seven or eight businesses.

"Basically, it's just a group of volunteers willing to help with whatever's needed," he said. "We all have different talents. So, it's about seeing what people's talents are and pointing them in the right direction."

He also found a glass company that will sell replacement windows at cost to the Alabama and Lyric Theatres. In the meantime, he organized a paint party last Sunday where volunteers brushed on a message of "Bham Strong: Be safe, Be well" on the plywood.

"I never thought of painting plywood, but I saw other people doing it," he said. "It's cool and amazing what people are doing to provide a positive message."

And, positive messages are popping up all along 3rd Avenue and in several other pockets downtown. Across the street, the famous civil rights-era slogan "Birmingham, the world is watching" is sprawled across the



side of the Lyric.

A few businesses over in front of Wheelhouse Salon is a black and white portrait of Floyd coupled with the phrase "Bham Strong" done by Mammoth Mural's Shane.

Andrew Tynnes, Shane's partner, said Mammoth was contacted by shop owners to decorate their plywood.

"It's been overwhelmingly positive," Wheelhouse owner Johnny Grimes said of the reaction to the mural. "That was one of the ideas in doing this. We wanted to change the narrative but also to create a conversational piece. Thousands of people have come by to see it and take pictures."

The choice to do it in black and white was intentional.

"It's a reflection of the intense polarization of it," he said. "Also, even within black and white, there's a variety of color. There's a lot of shades of gray in that. His death has been a symbol and a call to change in America for a lot of different things."

Another business owner whose space was vandalized is Dr. Juanakee Adams of Adams Eye Care on 5th Avenue North. The next day, dozens of volunteers, including comedian and Birmingham native Roy Wood Jr. gathered to help clean the business that's been a downtown staple for 40 years and put up plywood.

APPLY, DONATE, OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS RELIEF FUND

The Birmingham Business Relief Fund is a community response to the needs of Birmingham's small businesses affected by unrest that occurred in downtown Birmingham the night of Sunday, May 31, 2020.

"I've just been so blessed by this positive response," she told AL.com.

TOP: Charm On 2nd, 2nd Avenue North. BOTTOM: Third Avenue North, downtown Birmingham. (AMEERA STEWARD PHOTOS, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

COVER STORY



CLOCKWISE from top left: Alabama Theatre, 3rd Avenue North; United Trophy & Specialties, 1st Avenue North; First Avenue North; California Fashion Mall, 3rd Avenue North. (AMEERA STEWARD PHOTOS, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES)



COVER STORY



LEFT: Yo Mama's restaurant, 2nd Avenue North. ABOVE: Wooster Lofts, 1st Avenue North. BOTTOM RIGHT: Shu Shop, 3rd Avenue North. BELOW: California Fashion Mall, 3rd Avenue North. (AMEERA STEWARD PHOTOS, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES)



COVER STORY



Diva Reese, the artist behind the mural outside the Vibe Street Studios on 16th Avenue South at 12th Street on Birmingham's Southside honoring Breonna Taylor. (SOLOMON CRENSHAW JR. PHOTOS, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES)

DIVA REESE, FIRST-TIME MURALIST, PAYS HOMAGE TO BREONNA TAYLOR

BY SOLOMON CRENSHAW JR.
For the Birmingham Times

Driving by Vibe Street Studios on 16th Avenue South at 12th Street on Birmingham's Southside, it is easy to see the mural of Breonna Taylor, one of the many African Americans who have been slain at the hands of police. Beneath the Kendrick Lamar lyric "We Gon' Be Alright," dozens of black handprints cover the panel to the left.

But they're not just handprints — each one has the name of a Black person who was killed by law enforcement.

"The sad thing was there's not enough hands," said Diva Reese, the artist behind the drawing. "I painted as many hands as we could, ... but when I looked at the list recently of unarmed Black people that were victims of police brutality, it was upwards of 200. I couldn't paint 200 hands. I didn't have enough space."

The mural is the first for the 26-year-old Birmingham-area resident, who said she's



been an artist for her "whole life."

"My momma will tell people I've been drawing since I could pick up a pencil," Reese said. "I am completely self-taught."

The unrest that broke out in Birmingham on Sunday, May 31, left a trail of destruction that began at Linn Park downtown and stretched to points south and west. Residents

and business owners boarded storefronts to avoid the potential damage.

Vibe Street Studios is well south of the epicenter of where the looting took place, but owners of the photography and podcast studio took no chances, covering their plate-glass windows with plywood. As other artists painted the protective coverings in other

areas, Reese saw an opportunity.

"She reached out to us," Vibe Street owner Micah Lewis said. "When we put the plywood up, we were done with it and thought, 'That's good enough.' Then [Reese sent me a direct message (DM)] and asked, 'Could I paint a mural?' We thought, 'Oh, that's a great idea.'"

The boarded-up Vibe Street Studios gave Reese a chance to use her voice.

"They gave me free rein," she said. "They told me I could do whatever I wanted to do, so I chose to ... bring light to Breonna Taylor."

Reese felt that Taylor's death at the hands of police had been overshadowed by the killings of George Floyd and others. She was also bothered by the apparent cover-up of the case by Louisville, Kentucky, police.

USA Today reported on Tuesday, June 23, that Louisville Metro Police Department Officer Brett Hankison was terminated for his role in the shooting death of Taylor. The 26-year-old Taylor was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

COVER STORY

MURALS

CONTINUED from PAGE 12

This week bendyknees, a women-led design company, came back to brighten up the wood with a fitting optical design.

The murals, like the others on 3rd Avenue and in other pockets downtown have garnered a significant amount of attention in the last week, some of it not so positive.

Not long after it went up, the Floyd mural was defaced. But, Tynnes said Mammoth took it in stride.

Grimes dropped the charges against the man arrested for the crime.

"We decided to forgive this person," Grimes said. "We thought it would help push the movement forward. We don't want the rioting, looting to be the central story that's told. We want to promote a national conversation about race and racial reconciliation."

"It's a bummer that that's the way he chose to communicate," Tynnes said. "But it's also OK. Nobody got hurt. In terms of crime, it was the best possible scenario. Everything he did was fixable and he didn't really hurt anybody."

Gulas and Tynnes both agree that the murals and the reason behind them are causing some long-overdue conversations about race in America and Birmingham specifically.

"It's opened my eyes to a lot," Gulas said. "I was having a conversation earlier today about white privilege. I've never really had a conversation about that. I never really thought about white privilege. I never thought about what it's like to be in the shoes of a Black man."



Wheelhouse Salon, 3rd Avenue North, downtown Birmingham. (AMEERA STEWARD, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES)

The murals have also opened up everyone's hearts and brought people together.

"A lot of the people who've volunteered, I didn't know who the hell they were," he said. "What it's allowed me to do is build relationships. It was about turning a negative into a positive."

Even though the murals are the result of anger and unrest, Tynnes says he hopes they keep the conversations alive.

"There's a lot of people in the community who also feel the same way," Tynnes said. "You can see that in the Black Lives Matter mural in front of Modern Brand that's

covered in handprints. You can see it at the Pizitz with the black hearts that are also covered in handprints. I think nobody's thrilled about where things are right now. Nobody wants the state of things to continue. We got to play a small part in making sure that George Floyd is remembered."

REESE

CONTINUED from PAGE 15

shot by officers at her apartment on March 13, as they entered to serve a no-knock warrant. Her boyfriend thought the officers were intruders and fired a shot as they entered. Taylor was shot eight times in the ensuing gunfire from officers.

"I want the officers who killed Breonna Taylor to be arrested and charged," Reese said. "I just felt like her case does not get enough attention. I've had several people, especially from this neighborhood, DM me and say they didn't know who Breonna Taylor was before seeing the mural."

"That was the point," the first-time muralist continued. "When I was painting it, a lady pulled up and asked me, 'What's your message?' I said, 'Research Breonna Taylor,' because she didn't know who she was either."

Reese completed her mural in just two days, and she's received nothing but positive feedback from countless passersby stopping to take selfies with her mural in the background.

'NAME AND TITLE'

Diva Reese was born in Las Vegas, Nevada — and, yes, Diva is her real first name. But does she meet the definition of a diva: a self-important person who is temperamental and difficult to please?

"In some capacities, yes," she said. "People ask me, 'Is it my name or my title?' I'll claim both."

Reese grew up in the Birmingham area, graduated from Gardendale High School, and was set to go to New York University to study her "two loves" — political science and fine art. Instead of going to college, the then 19-year-old Reese took a job she was offered: restaurant manager at a shop in

Mountain Brook.

"Food and art have always been among my passions," she said. "My mom always baked [when I was] growing up. My great-grandmother was actually a baker, so I just combined our passions. That's a business my mom and I own."

Mother and daughter created Encore Desert Bar in Birmingham.

"Our catchphrase is 'Portable, Stackable, Snackable,'" Reese said of the treats she and her mother make. "It's actually a cupcake, a cake in a cup. They're all layered. They have different names, ... fun, really cool names ... based on pop culture."

The blue raspberry shortcake, for instance, is called the "Uncle Snoop."

"My mom is from Compton, [California], so when I see the color blue, I associate it with [hip-hop artists] Snoop Dogg or [the late] Nipsey Hussle."

While the Vibe Street Studio effort is Reese's first mural, it is just her latest flirtation with art.

"I'm in business, where I teach people how to paint," she said of her other venture, Nontoxic. "It's a networking experience for people from all different backgrounds. My demographic is very weird. I have everyone from Mountain Brook moms to 20-year-old kids coming to paint on a weekly basis."

Neither business has a brick-and-mortar location, although she has a residency at Tostadas Mexican restaurant in Homewood.

"We call it Nontoxic Tuesdays, and I teach [through] paint parties there weekly," the entrepreneur said. "I work with a lot of local clubs and breweries. I'll put on seasonal events for them, or we'll have a paint party and private parties."

Reese is available on Instagram at @divareese. Her businesses can be reached via Facebook and Instagram at @nontoxc and @encoredesertbar.



dan crane

ACCIDENT & INJURY LAW

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

SO DO LARGE SETTLEMENTS

205-623-5533 CRANEINJURYLAW.COM

NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE THAT THE QUALITY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED IS GREATER THAN THE QUALITY OF LEGAL SERVICES PERFORMED BY OTHER LAWYERS.

THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES

**CONGRATULATES ITS STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS FOR THEIR MULTIPLE WINS
IN THE 2020 ALABAMA PRESS ASSOCIATION MEDIA AWARDS**



- BEST EDUCATION COVERAGE (1ST PLACE)
 - BEST FEATURE STORY (2ND PLACE)
- AMEERA STEWARD, CONTRIBUTING WRITER



- BEST LAYOUT AND DESIGN (1ST PLACE)
 - BEST HEADLINE (3RD PLACE)
- KATHRYN SESSER-DORNÉ, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



- BEST NEWS FEATURE STORY COVERAGE (1ST PLACE)
- JE'DON HOLLOWAY TALLEY, FREELANCER



- BEST NEWSPAPER WEBSITE (1ST PLACE)
- ERICA WRIGHT, DIGITAL CONTENT COORDINATOR

OTHER 2020 WINS

- BEST PRODUCTION AND PRINTING (2ND PLACE)
- GENERAL EXCELLENCE (3RD PLACE)
- BEST LIFESTYLE/FAMILY PAGES (3RD PLACE)
- BEST SPORTS FEATURE (STAFF)

TODAY

READ THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES. Get all the latest news! COMEDIANS MIKE SPEENBERG, SIR WALT and EUNICE ELLIOTT at the StarDome Comedy Club.

BLACK MOVIE NIGHT – Check out the movies on all of the stations and then include popcorn with a variety of sodas to enjoy the time with the family. Black movies are all over the place. Check them out!

FRIDAY

COMEDIANS MIKE SPEENBERG, SIR WALT and EUNICE ELLIOTT at the StarDome Comedy Club.

MOVIE NIGHT: Check out some old, but good flicks/ movies and show on a sheet in the backyard for the young and young at heart. Fun in the outdoors... any day!

SATURDAY

MINISTER FARRAKHAN SPEAKS TO THE WORLD – The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan addresses the world Live Internet on July 4th, 10 a.m. CST www.noi.org.

FUN, GAMES, YARD AND HOUSE WORK including Uno, Monopoly, Solitaire. Weeding the pretty flowers in the beds, cutting the grass, cleaning the grill or just sitting outside if the weather permits. Things are changing soon.

SUNDAY

FAMILY TIME AND GOOD FOOD. Grilling in the backyard, movies in the backyard, parties in the backyard.

MONDAY

PLANNING AND MORE CATCH UP: Pull out



PPT
PEOPLE
PLACES
& THINGS

Go to www.birmingham-times.com for more weekly events.

that long to-do list and see what can be done during the week or weekend ahead. Making plans for the future and getting back to normal as best as you can.

TUESDAY

READ A GOOD BOOK... There are a few on the bookshelves, just lying around ...or you can get an e-book.

WEDNESDAY

COMEDIAN MARIO TORY at the StarDome Comedy Club.

WEATHER WATCHING FOR THE WEEK AND WEEKEND. Looking for the weekend and thinking of what to do that depends on good weather outdoors. Getting out of the house even if going nowhere.... Take a walk if the weather is good.

NEXT THURSDAY

READ THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES. Catch up on the news!

NEXT FRIDAY

MOVIE NIGHT: Rent and Watch movies at Sidewalkfest.com.

COMEDIAN JAMES GREGORY at the StarDome Comedy Club.

FOR MUSIC LOVERS

JAZZ IN THE PARK - Jazz in the Park is back on July 4th Saturday, 6 p.m. with BOB BALDWIN and SHERRY REEVES. National recording artist Bob Baldwin will headline Jazz in the Park on July 4th at Birmingham Memorial Park located at 524 6th Avenue South. He will perform along with Birmingham's own flutist Sherry Reeves. New York native Bob Baldwin has recorded on six of the seven inhabitable continents, and while Antarctica is not on his recording bucket list, his international list, including Dubai, Brazil, South Africa, Spain, UK, Can-

ada, is quite impressive. Sherry Reeves has started a new voyage entitled "Voyage". This is the 1st release of her new CD to be released in the spring 2020. Remarkable, unexpected, breathtaking...three words have been used to describe both the music career and instrumental styling of Sherry Reeves. Even before the release of her debut album in the Summer of 2014, her musicianship caught the ear of music fans in her hometown of Birmingham, Alabama and earned her audiences alongside top Jazz industry artists such as Ben Tankard, Vincent Ingala, Johnathan Fritzen, Choko Aiken, and Kim Waters!

This concert is free to the public. To help the spread of COVID-19, we are requiring all patrons to follow these guidelines:

- Stay home if you are sick
 - Keep social distance (6 feet)
 - Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth
 - Face coverings will be provided
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water
 - Hand sanitizer will be provided
- Everyone is at risk of contracting COVID-19

FOR THE COMMUNITY

MILES COLLEGE TO UNVEIL BLACK LIVES MATTER CAMPUS STREET MURAL

Black Lives Matter street mural began installation recently at Miles College and was completed yesterday. The street art was designed by the Miles College SGA and brought to life by Shawn Fitzwater. The dedication will be displayed to the world in August after school has reopened with the cooperation of Miles College students and administration, donations from the Black Lives Matter Birmingham Chapter and The Rock City Church. The school is proud to be the first HBCU with the street mural and would like to challenge other colleges and universities to support the Black Lives Matter movement in their own ways. Miles College President, Bobbie Knight, would like to remind the community that the campus is still closed due to the Covid-19 and encourages anyone interested in seeing the artwork in person to refrain from visiting the campus until the school reopens.

BIRMINGHAM INITIATIVES – Here are a couple of initiatives that are taking place supporting the Birmingham community. Visit the links and learn how you can contribute, support or volunteer in the efforts. *To support Black and locally owned businesses in Birmingham, visit www.wokevote.us/ restore. *Join the community in supporting Mayor Randall Woodfin and the City of Birmingham to re-envision a new monument in Linn Park – one that represents a vision for an inclusive future. Donate today to be a part of something monumental. www.gofundme.com/f/monumentalbhm.

JOB SEEKERS - Looking for a job... *GOOD JOB is a site for job seekers looking for employment match up. *YWCA is a site for job seekers looking for employment. *SERVIFIRST BANK is a site. *ALABAMA SAWYER is a site. *HALF SHELL OYSTER HOUSE is a site. *HINKLE METALS AND SUPPLY is a site. *EBSO is a site.

MINISTER FARRAKHAN SPEAKS TO THE WORLD – The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan addresses the world Live Internet on July 4th, 10 a.m. CST www.noi.org.

COVID-19 TESTING SITES...Here is an update on the testing sites in Birmingham...

ONGOING - *LEGION FIELD: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL 205-92-COVID (205-922-6843) ...*UAB Downtown Testing Site: TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL (205)-975-1881 (2117 University Blvd South, Birmingham, AL 35205) ...*Cahaba Medical Care, West End Clinic: TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL (205)-679-6325 or visit cahabamedicalcare.com (1308 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Birmingham)

FOR BIRMINGHAM ZOO LOVERS

BIRMINGHAM ZOO INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENTS - Birmingham Zoo invites the community to share three days of fun starting July 3 through July 5. In honor of Independence Day, the Zoo is giving free admission to veterans, active and retired military, in addition to their dependents. Guests must show proof of military service (military ID card, dependent ID card, or driver's license with veteran's designation) at the ticket booth to receive free entry

into the Zoo. Online reservations are not required for guests with military ID. The Birmingham Zoo also offers Military service members a discount on Birmingham Zoo Memberships! Visit the website at birminghamzoo.com or stop by the Membership booth for pricing, more information, and to purchase or renew your Military Family Membership!

FOR LOVERS OF FOOD

FARMERS TO FAMILIES FREE PRODUCE WEDNESDAYS – Avondale Samaritan Place, 3829 5th Avenue South is offering FREE fresh produce to families through July 22 starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays.

VIRTUAL FOOD PRESERVATION WORKSHOP SERIES on July 7 – Freezing Produce, 2 p.m. Register at www.aces.edu with Alabama Cooperative Extension Food Safety.

FOOD AND FARM FORUM -The 2020 Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network (ASAN) Forum is scheduled for December 10-12 at Camp Beckwith in Fairhope, Alabama. There is a Youth Food and Farm Forum, as well. If you are interested in leading a session, application deadline is July 7. Sessions are 50 minutes or two hours in length, and can be anything from a panel discussion to hands-on demo, roundtable discussion to a traditional presentation. Categories for topics include: Farming (Beginning and Advanced levels), Farm Business / Marketing, Community Food Systems / Food Movement, and "Green Living". Submit your proposal at AUTHOR.DR.USA

AUTHOR DR. USA DAMOUR SPEAKS AT GIRLSPRING - GirlSpring hosted an event recently with author Dr. Lisa Damour keynote speaker who has two books that she shared some advice. The event was 'Growing Up in Uncertain Times: How to Be There for our Daughters.' The books that she has authored are 'Untangled' and 'Under Pressure.' (Look for more on the books soon.)

Well, that's it. Tell you more 'next' time.

People, Places and Things by Gwen DeRu is a weekly column. Send comments to my emails: thelewis-group@birminghamtimes.com and gwenderu@yahoo.com.



Jay-Z's annual festival in Philadelphia, Made in America, won't take place Labor Day weekend due to the coronavirus pandemic. In a statement Wednesday, the rap mogul's Roc Nation company said they plan to produce the popular festival in 2021. (MATT ROURKE, FILE)

JAY-Z'S MADE IN AMERICA FESTIVAL CANCELED DUE TO PANDEMIC

From wire reports

NEW YORK — Jay-Z's annual festival in Philadelphia, Made in America, won't take place Labor Day weekend due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In a statement Wednesday, the rap mogul's Roc Nation company said it plans to produce the popular festival in 2021.

"2020 is a year like no other. We are in a pivotal time in this nation's history. Collectively, we are fighting parallel pandemics, COVID-19, systematic racism and police brutality. Now is the time to protect the health of our artists, fans, partners and community as well as focus on our support for organizations and individuals fight-

ing for social justice and equality in our country. Therefore, the Made In America festival will be rescheduled for Labor Day Weekend 2021," Roc Nation said in a statement.

This year's Made In America festival was set to take place Sept. 5-6 at the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Roc Nation said tickets for the 2020 event will be valid in 2021. Ticketholders seeking refunds should look out for an email from Live Nation explaining how to get their money back.

"If anyone would prefer a refund, an email will be sent to request one. For any further ticket inquiries, please reach out to the point of purchase," the statement read.

the GARY RICHARDSON MORNING SHOW WEEKDAYS 6-9

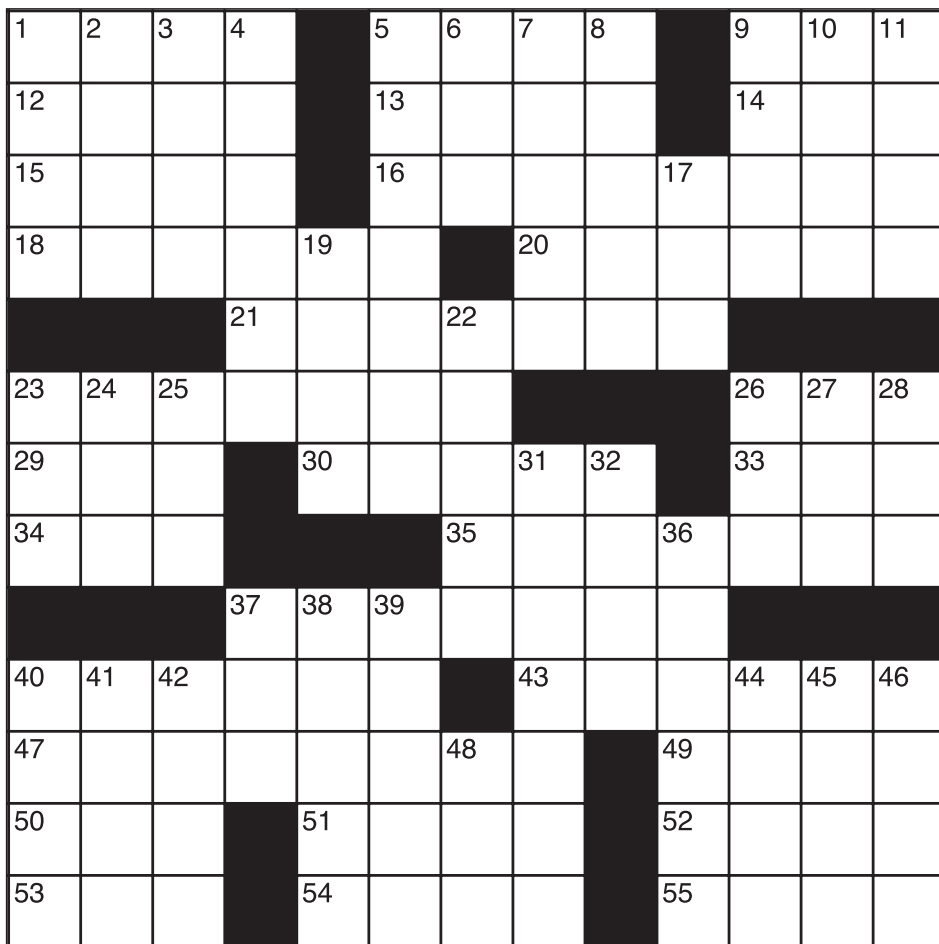
"Birmingham's Longest Running Talk Program"



PUZZLES

CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ADOPTS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: This week in 1776, in Philadelphia, the Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence, which proclaims the independence of the United States of America from Great Britain and its king. The declaration came 442 days after the first volleys of the American Revolution were fired at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts and marked an ideological expansion of the conflict that would eventually encourage France's intervention on behalf of the Patriots. The first major American opposition to British policy came in 1765 after Parliament passed the Stamp Act.

CROSSWORDS



ACROSS

1. Glided
5. Small insect
9. Lump
12. Compassion
13. Hurry
14. Epoch
15. Prayer finale
16. Musical group
18. Mexican dish
20. Pencil end
21. Horror-movie star
23. Rifle attachment
26. Broom's relative
29. Needle aperture
30. Dirt
33. "Much ____ About Nothing"
34. Obtain
35. Fastened
37. Estimated
40. Applaud
43. Floats
47. Women's sleepwear
49. Larry, Curly, and Moe
50. Pick
51. Chinese staple
52. Profit
53. Casual shirt
54. Plant beginning
55. Changes colors

DOWN

1. Petty dispute
2. Certain bean
3. Part of a list
4. Energetic person
5. More lush
6. Convent dweller
7. Investment
8. Neither here nor ____
9. Chews the fat
10. Peer
11. Pub drink
17. Damage
19. Yearn
22. Moves
23. Ask earnestly
24. Pro vote
25. Up to this time
26. Small rug
27. Poem
28. Seed coat
31. Offense
32. Eternally
36. Revised copy
37. Band booking
38. Consumers
39. Bizarre
40. Parcel
41. Full-grown
42. Poker word
44. Ravel
45. Exhaust
46. Male heirs
48. Drink chiller

HOROSCOPES

ARIES: If you have a move coming up, there will be little time to spare this week. Luckily, you'll manage to stay on top of your schedule and plan your days carefully to ensure smooth sailing.

TAURUS: Your kids are over the moon about the start of the summer holidays, and you'll spend a lot of time driving them around this week. You'll be approved for a loan or get a great deal on a major purchase.

GEMINI: If there's been something wrong with your relationship recently, don't put off talking to your partner about it. Communication is the only way to fix the problem.

CANCER: Show your employer or significant other that you can be bold. Take matters into your own hands. When you do, you'll gain respect in all areas of your life.

LEO: If your relationship is relatively new, your partner will show signs of a deeper commitment. You may even consider living together or starting a family. Your imagination will run wild this week.

VIRGO: You'll have a sudden urge to treat yourself. You deserve a few extra moments of happiness, so take the time to pamper yourself. You'll be influenced by your friends' opinions while shopping.

LIBRA: Whether you're single or not, someone from work will make advances that take your breath away. You'll feel some kind of pressure from the people around you.

SCORPIO: Summer is here and you have a big family trip planned. If you're driving to your destination, don't forget to pack a map or update the GPS.

SAGITTARIUS: You'll be overjoyed by your children's report cards. Their success will make it hard to refuse them anything. Be prepared for them to ask for the moon, or at least something outside of your budget.

CAPRICORN: If you're not sure where your relationship stands, now's the time to start a conversation with your partner. This will strengthen your bond.

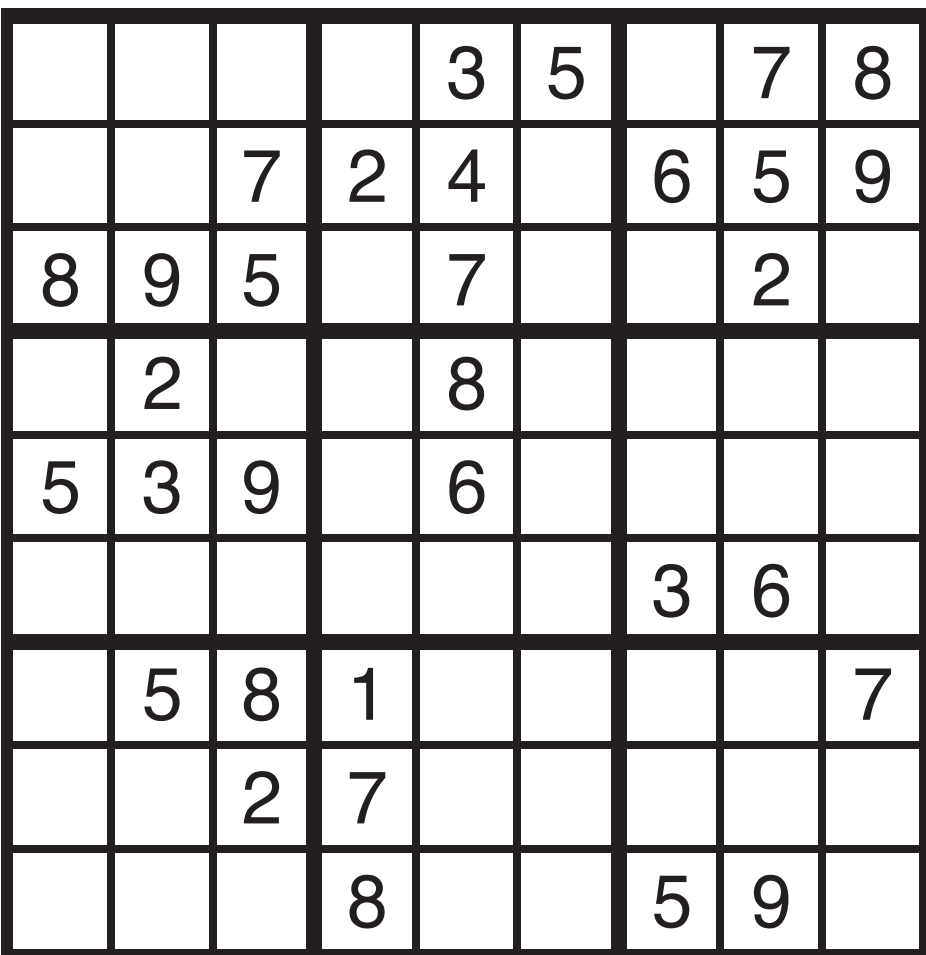
AQUARIUS: You'll contemplate starting your own business, which will eventually be very profitable. If you're single, a special someone will enter your life, although they might be discreet and reserved at first.

PISCES: In order to find your path in life, both professionally and personally, you need to build up your self-esteem and learn to respect yourself.

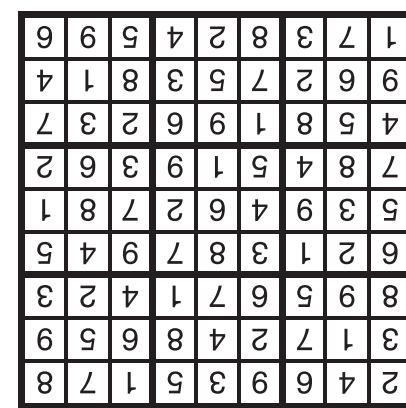


SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once. Each 3 x 3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3 x 3 box.



ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES



CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO

We are currently accepting applications for the following:

- Assistant Director, UM AMSTI
- Child Study Center Auxiliary Teacher 4-year old classroom

Visit <https://jobs.montevallo.edu>

UM is an AA/EO Employer

BT07/02/2020

LEGALS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER SECURITY LOCK AND DOOR SYSTEM

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Scope of Work: The Project generally includes the replacement of the cell door locks, stairway locks, other security locks in the facility, dayroom and vestibule slider operators, and replacement of the sliders in the medical unit. New security doors will be provided at the medical unit. Some existing hollow metal frames will require repair, and all doors and frames where work is performed will be painted. The maintenance of all new locks and operators during performance of the contract is part of this work and will require a 2-year warranty to commence at the completion of the contract.

A mandatory Pre-bid Conference will be held on July 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. CST at Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 22, 716 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd North, Birmingham, AL Birmingham, AL 35023.

Sealed proposals from the General Contractors will be received by Jefferson County General Services at Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 270, 716 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd North, Birmingham, AL 35203 until 2:00 p.m. CDT on July 14, 2020 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read.

A cashier's check or Bid Bond payable to Jefferson County Commission, in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the amount of the proposal, but in no event more than \$10,000 must accompany the bid. Performance and Statutory Labor and Material Payment Bonds in the amount of 100% of the Contract Price will be required at the signing of the Contract.

Drawings and Project Manual will be open to public inspection beginning June 15, 2020 at the offices of the Jefferson County General Services, Jefferson County Courthouse Room 1: CMH Architects, Inc.; Birmingham Construction Industry Authority (BCIA); Dodge Data and Analytics; and Reed Construction Data. Bidders must call the Owner and Architect's office at least 24 hours in advance to arrange a time to review the documents. These documents cannot be removed from the Owner's or Architect's office nor will any copies of these documents be provided to bidders.

Bid Documents must be obtained from the Architect upon deposit of \$150 per set. Said deposit will be refunded to unsuccessful bidders if the bid drawings and specs are returned to the Architect, complete and in good condition within 10 calendar days of the bid date. Following purchase of the initial set, Bidder will be provided with PDFs of the Bid Documents for reproduction of additional sets at Bidder's discretion and cost.

The project is being bid EXCLUDING TAXES and requires the Contractor to comply with the requirements of Act 2013-205 which was signed into law May 19, 2013. The Contractor and Owner will be required to apply for Certificates of Exemption with the Alabama Department of Revenue which will handle the administration of the certificates. The contractor shall account for the tax savings on the Accounting of Sales Tax form included in the specification behind the proposal form. Failure for the Contractor to complete this form and include with their proposal shall render the bid non-responsive.

The general contractor awarded the project shall be responsible for paying all Project Permit Fees.

All bidders must submit three (3) copies of their bids on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof. All bidders bidding in amounts exceeding that established by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975 and must show evidence of license before bidding or bidders will not be received or considered by the Architect; the bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope

in which the proposal is delivered. The successful bidder must provide evidence of enrollment in the E-Verify program per The Alabama Immigration Law (also referred to as "Act 2011-535" and codified in state law as Title 31, Chapter 13 of the Code of Alabama 1975) and amended by Act No. 2012-491 (2012) before awarding of contract. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Owner's judgement, the best interest of the owner will thereby be promoted.

Performance time: The project is a multi-phase project and is to be substantially complete within 395 calendar days from Notice to Proceed. Should the Owner choose to accept Alternate 1, the performance time will be adjusted per the days noted in the bid.

Awarding Authority:
Jefferson County Commission
Jefferson County Courthouse
716 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Architect:
CMH Architects, Inc.
1800 International Park Drive, Suite 300
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
Tel. (205) 969-2696
Fax. (205) 969-3930

BT07/02/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-902063.00

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: AKHNAMN A. RAMESRA f/k/a LUCIUS RUSS; PASCO JOSEPH ROSATO, JR.; MARLESA ROSATO BURSON; REGINA ROSATO MCDONALD, and CHRISTINA ROSATO RUTHVEN; as heirs of PASCO ROSATO; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on June 5, 2020 the Birmingham Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the Land Bank asserts that it has recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Property Address: 1528 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35218

Tax Parcel ID No.: 01-22-00-31-4-038-017.000

Legal Description: Lots 17 and 18, in Block 8, according to the Survey of Finney and Jones Addition to Ensley, recorded in Map Book 1, Page 301, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Jefferson County, Alabama, situated in Jefferson County, Alabama

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 26, 2020 in Room 360, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 8:30 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Cherokee W. Wooley, Law Offices of Thomas J. Skinner, IV, LLC, at (205) 802-2545.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be

rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 22nd day of June, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/02/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-902064.00

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: GERRY STARKS, individually and as heir of ARTIE LEE STARKS; CARLOS LADONDI STARKS and JOHN WESTLEY STARKS, as heirs of ARTIE LEE STARKS; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on June 5, 2020 the Birmingham Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the Land Bank asserts that it has recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Property Address: 6205 Georgia Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35212

Tax Parcel ID No.: 01-23-00-22-2-025-014.000

Legal Description: Lots 3 and 4, Block 5, according to Ideal Land and Improvement Company's Resurvey of Block 5, Frey's Addition to Woodlawn, as recorded in Map Book 7, Page 113, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Jefferson County, Alabama, situated in Jefferson County, Alabama

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 7, 2020 in Room 670, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 9:00 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Cherokee W. Wooley, Law Offices of Thomas J. Skinner, IV, LLC, at (205) 802-2545.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 22nd day of June, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/02/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-900219

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: WILLIAM H. GAMBLE (DECEASED) AND HIS UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES; BELINDA TREADWELL; WILLIAM DAVID GAMBLE; CYNTHIA JONES; NANCY OLIVE HOLCOMB; PATRICIA

WALDROP; JOHNATHAN GAMBLE, CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

The Birmingham Land Bank Authority recorded notice in the Probate of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action involving the following property:

That parcel of real property located at 264 55th Street North, Birmingham, Alabama and having a legal description of: The South 36.5 feet of Lot 5, in Block 2 according to the Survey of O.W. Wood, Jr. Woodlawn Property and also incorrectly described in Real Volume 390, Page 291 as "The South 36.5 feet of Lot 15, according to the Survey of O.W. Wood, Jr. Woodlawn Property as recorded in Map Book 1, Page 241, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Jefferson County, Alabama

and assigned Parcel ID No. 23-00-21-2-008-003.000

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for July 16, 2020 in Room 340, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 9:00 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care Greer B. Mallette, Christian & Small, LLP, 505 20th Street North, Suite 1800 Financial Center, Birmingham, AL 35203 at (205) 795-6588.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 22nd day of June, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/02/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-900225

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: MICHAEL E. MCNABB; PATRICIA Y. COMER, ESQ.; JORDAN SCRAP, INC.; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

The Birmingham Land Bank Authority recorded notice in the Probate of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action involving the following property:

That parcel of real property located at 4229 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35222 and having a legal description of: Lot 11, Block 3, according to the Map and Survey of Laird-Falls and Weiser's Subdivision, as recorded in Map Book 2, Page 25, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Jefferson County, Alabama, and also a lot or parcel of land lying adjacent to said Lot 11, fronting 61.35 feet on the South side of Morris Avenue and extending back southwardly along the Western line of Lot 11, 135 feet, more or less to the Northern boundary line of Alabama Great Southern Railway right-of-way; said lot and parcel of land hereby being more particularly described as commencing at the intersection of the Southerly line of Morris Avenue with the Western line of Laird (43rd) Street; thence in a westerly

LEGALS

This is a summary of the proposed amendments for Community Development Programs. Copies of this summary may also be reviewed online at (https://www.jccal.org/Sites/Jefferson_County/Documents/Community%20Dev/2020.4.14%20PY2019%20), or by calling 325-5761. Arrangements can also be made to meet the Special Needs Requirements of those with disabilities as well as those with limited English proficiency. Those in this category should contact the Office of Community Services & Workforce Development and telephone number leaving a message with their name and number if they reach voicemail. Copies will also be provided to the 33 participating consortium cities: Adamsville, Argo, Brighton, Brookside, Cardiff, Center Point, Clay, Fairfield, Fultondale, Gardendale, Graysville, Homewood, Hoover, Hueytown, Irondale, Kimberly, Leeds, Lipscomb, Maytown, Midfield, Morris, Mountain Brook, Mulga, North Johns, Pinson, Pleasant Grove, Sylvan Springs, Tarrant, Trafford, Trussville, Vestavia Hills, Warrior, and West Jefferson.

Comments must be submitted prior to 5:00 p.m. on July 10, 2020. Written comments will be submitted to the following:

Jefferson County Office of Community Services & Workforce Development
716 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd N, Ste. A-430
Birmingham, AL 35203
Attn: Amendment Comments

The Final Amended Use of Funds stated herein has been developed so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which will principally benefit low and moderate income persons and families. In addition, the projected use of funds is consistent with Jefferson County's goal of:

- Stabilizing low and moderate income neighborhoods located in consortium cities and unincorporated Jefferson County;
- Providing safe and affordable housing;
- Providing jobs for low and moderate income persons and families; and
- Improving the economic life in Jefferson County by encouraging business development.

The purpose of this Amendment is to add one (1) activity for programming the CARES Act funds to activities in these program years. The following are the activities to be added:

PROGRAM YEAR 2019 (45th)
CDBG-CV1
Add the Following Activities:
Royal Divinity Food Assistance, \$566,954.30
Salvation Army Utility and Rental Assistance, \$566,954.30
CDBG-CV1 Administration, \$284,073.40

ESG-CV1
Add the Following Activities:
HESG-CV1, \$706,121.00

ESG-CV2
Add the Following Activities:
HESG-CV2, \$1,485,652.00

BT07/02/2020

NOTICE

Notice to Dr. Julio C.A. Delgado that the Florida Board of Medicine issued a Notice of Intent to Deny renewal of ME125327 which was sent via certified mail and returned unclaimed. This notice becomes a final order if no request for hearing is received by the Department on or before July 24, 2020. Contact the Agency Clerk by phone at (850) 245-4005 or fax at (850) 245-4790.

BT07/02/2020

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CITY OF BIRMINGHAM PROGRAM MANAGER — LEAD SAFE HOUSING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The City of Birmingham, Alabama is soliciting proposals from interested individuals to provide Program Management Services for a Lead Based-Paint Hazard Control (LBPHC) and Healthy Homes (HH) grant program. The City will receive \$4,100,000 in LBPHC and HH funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City will receive proposals from individuals having specific experience and qualifications in the area identified in this solicitation. For consideration, proposals for this project must contain evidence of the Proposer's experience and abilities in the specified area and other disciplines directly related to the proposed service.

The Program Manager will be responsible for day-to-day management of the lead program, including managing sub-contractors, monitoring performance, tracking expenditures and coordinating assignments with city personnel for lead testing, remediation, abatement, housing inspections, and clearing units, developing annual program budgets and work plans, managing and overseeing the complaint/resolution process in accordance with program procedures, preparing and submitting required

HUD reports, and managing marketing/outreach and application in-take. This professional will serve as the primary point of contact and will represent the city at community forums. A job description is attached outlining the duties to be performed as well as expected credentials, including project management experience and completion of lead abatement courses and training.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

The Proposer must show to the complete satisfaction of The City that the individual has the necessary facilities, ability, and financial resources to provide the services specified herein in a satisfactory manner. The Proposer should also give work experience and references in order to satisfy The City in regard to the Proposer's qualifications. The City may make reasonable investigations deemed necessary and proper to determine the ability of the Proposer to perform the work, and the Proposer shall furnish to The City all information for this purpose that may be requested. The City reserves the right to reject any offer if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, the Proposer fails to satisfy The City that the Proposer is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the work described therein.

The Lead Program Manager's responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- Administering the federally-funded Lead Based-Paint Hazard Controls and Healthy Homes Program.
- Overseeing maintenance of the Lead Safe Housing Program database ad accuracy of database generated reports.
- Coordinating collaborative partners in program planning, program scheduling, and implementation efforts;
- Working with Jefferson County Health Department and providing oversight to community awareness activities;
- Coordinating efforts among program staff, administrative staff, applicants, and administrative partners;
- Ensuring projects, applicants and contractors are meeting State and Federal guidelines for the program and lead-work safe practices including Housing Rehabilitation and Lead Safe Housing regulations, Davis-Bacon wage requirements, and federal Section 3 regulations;
- Monitoring on-going construction projects and maintaining documentation of program activities;
- Performing project management activities including but not limited to verification of eligibility, completion of lead risk assessments and associated report, work-write-up of items to be addressed, updating tracking documents and filing final reports;
- Approving final payouts to contractors and partners;
- Addressing overall program performance and effectiveness to ensure program objectives and goals are being reached; and
- Preparing and submitting HUD mandated reports and requested documentation.
- Making presentations to the general public about lead paint issues and other applicable topics.
- Perform all duties listed in the position description as well as other related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- The Proposer must possess a Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Public Administration (MPA) or a Master's of a related field.
- At least three years of professional experience working with a local, state, or federal grant program.
- The Proposer must possess a valid Alabama Driver's License.

ADDITIONAL PREFERRED SKILLS

- Excellent customer service skills;
- Strong oral and written communication skills;
- Strong organization skills;
- Excellent computer skills, including competency in use of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint;
- Knowledge and/or experience using the Healthy Homes Grant Management System (HHGMS);
- Knowledge and/or experience gathering and maintaining data; and
- Knowledge and/or experience with Davis-Bacon and Section 3 federal regulations

TIMELINE

- RFP Issued: Tuesday, June 30, 2020
- RFP Responses Due: July 17, 2020
- Proposal Selection Date: * July 24, 2020 (Approximation)
- Contract Award Date: * July 31, 2020 (Approximation)
- Contract Service Start Date: * August 3, 2020 (Approximation)

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A consultant wishing to submit a proposal must include the following in the response:

- How many years of Lead experience do you have in general? Specifically, how many years of local, state, or federal Lead Grant Program experience do you have Please identify the municipality.
- Other than a government funded Lead Grant Program, describe your experience in working with other government grants.
- Describe your experience and your proficiency level creating and editing Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. If no experience, please indicate N/A.
- Describe your experience and your proficiency level creating and editing PowerPoint presentations. If no experience, please indicate N/A.
- Describe your experience preparing and/or monitoring grant agreements, contracts, or other types of funding agreements. If no experience, please indicate N/A.

- Describe your experience working with low-income household and/or low-income communities. Please be specific about your role. If no experience, please indicate N/A.
- Describe your experience working with data manipulation including the use of SPSS. If no experience, please indicate N/A.
- Describe your experience speaking in front of crowds of 50 or more people. Please be specific about the individual instances. If no experience, please indicate N/A.
- Attach a copy of your valid Alabama Driver's License.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by staff. The City may make reasonable investigations deemed necessary and proper to determine the ability of the Proposer to perform the work, and the Proposer shall furnish to The City all information for this purpose that may be requested. The City reserves the right to reject any offer if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, the Proposer fails to satisfy The City that the Proposer is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the work described therein.

Criteria for evaluation include:

- Capacity to perform the services identified (50%)
- Cost/Salary (30%)
- References (20%)

RFP SUBMISSION PROCESS

Proposal deadline: Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 PM CST, July 17, 2020. Sealed proposals must be received in the Community Development Department at the address referenced below. Submittal should include three (3) hard copies including signatures and one (1) USB. No proposals received by fax or e-mail transmission will be accepted. Your proposal may be delivered by hand or via the US Postal Service as long as the proposal is received in our office by the Proposal Due Date and Time; postmark dates will not be considered.

Community Development Department
Room 1000- 10th Floor, City Hall
710 North 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203

Proposers are asked to note on the outside of the proposal package:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
LEAD SAFE HOUSING PROGRAM – PROGRAM MANAGER

QUESTIONS:
Please direct all questions regarding this Request for Proposals (RFP) to:

Lareisha Higginbottom
(205) 254-2309
Lareisha.higginbottom@birminghamal.gov

BT07/02/2020

LEAD SAFE HOUSING PROGRAM CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR LEAD BASED-PAINT HAZARD CONTROL (LBPHC) AND HEALTHY HOMES (HH) GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Birmingham, Alabama is now accepting proposals from Certified Firms to provide Program Management Services for a Lead Based-Paint Hazard Control (LBPHC) and Healthy Homes (HH) grant program. The City will receive proposals from firms/companies/entities having specific experience and qualifications in the area identified in this solicitation. For consideration, proposals for this project must contain evidence of the Proposer's experience and abilities in the specified area and other disciplines directly related to the proposed service.

The managing firm will be responsible for managing \$4,100,000 in funding granted to the city to administer its LBPHC and HH program. The managing firm will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the lead program, including managing sub-contractors, monitoring performance, tracking expenditures and coordinating assignments with city personnel for lead testing, remediation, abatement, housing inspections, clearing units, developing annual program budgets and work plans, managing and overseeing the complaint/resolution process in accordance with program procedures, preparing required HUD reports, and managing marketing/outreach and managing application in-take. This contract will last for a period of 30 months.

ELIGIBILITY: As the City's Housing Rehabilitation Programs are federally funded, all activities performed under this RFP shall be in accordance with the HUD Regulation on Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Federally-owned Housing and Housing Receiving Federal Assistance, dated September 1999, with all subsequent revisions to date and the Rules of the Alabama State Board of Health Chapter 420-3-27-.01 et al.

Firms must demonstrate significant experience administering federally funded programs. Firms must also be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of all required HUD forms to be included in Risk Assessment reports as well as testing protocols. All key project personnel shall be on staff and possess the proper certifications in accordance with Chapter 37A of Title 22, Code of Ala. 1975, and Chapter 822-X-1 as authorized by

Acts 1997, No.97-553, the Alabama Lead Reduction Act of 1997.

The City of Birmingham is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or provision of services. In accordance with HUD's Section 3 program and City and State of Alabama purchasing requirements, the City shall take affirmative steps to ensure that small, disadvantaged and minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus firms are solicited whenever there are potential qualified sources. The City shall also consider the feasibility of dividing total requirements into small tasks or quantities as to permit maximum participation by small, disadvantaged and minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus firms. All procurement carried out with Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program funds, where the City is a direct party, shall be carried out in a manner that provides maximum free and open competition. Procurement policies will not restrict or eliminate competition. The City shall not place unreasonable requirements on firms for them to qualify to do business.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

The responsibilities of the managing firm shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- Administering the federally-funded Lead Based-Paint Hazard Controls and Healthy Homes Program.
- Coordinating collaborative partners in program planning, program scheduling, and implementation efforts;
- Working with Jefferson County Health Department and providing oversight to community awareness activities;
- Coordinating efforts among program staff, administrative staff, applicants, and administrative partners;
- Ensuring projects, applicants and contractors are meeting State and Federal guidelines for the program and lead-work safe practices including Housing Rehabilitation and Lead Safe Housing regulations, Davis-Bacon wage requirements, and federal Section 3 regulations;
- Monitoring on-going construction projects and maintaining documentation of program activities;
- Performing project management activities including but not limited to verification of eligibility, completion of lead risk assessments and associated report, work-write-up of items to be addressed, updating tracking documents and filing final reports;
- Addressing overall program performance and effectiveness to ensure program objectives and goals are being reached; and
- Making presentations to the general public about lead paint issues and other applicable topics.
- Perform all duties listed in the position description as well as other related duties as assigned.

Your firm must be able to obtain a Data Universal Number (DUNS) number and register with System for Award Management (SAM) if your firm is selected.

TIMELINE:

- RFP Issued: Tuesday, May 26, 2020
- RFP Responses Due: July 17, 2020
- Proposal Selection Date: *July 24, 2020 (Approximation)
- Contract Award Date: *July 31, 2020 (Approximation)
- Contract Service Start Date: *August 3, 2020 (Approximation)

*These dates are subject to change.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Please review these specifications carefully and provide the following items:

- Letter summarizing your company profile, history and staffing
- Copy of Firm Lead Testing, Radon, Asbestos, Air Quality and Project Design certification. Your lead testing laboratory's certification by EPA under its National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP).
- Copy of all Inspector and Risk Assessor Certifications, for all professionals working under this proposal and contract (or plans to obtain the necessary certifications).
- Proof of Liability Insurance. All contractors shall have continuous Worker's Compensation & General Liability Insurance policies. Reference Alabama Code § 25-5-8 Industrial Relations and Labor for additional information pertaining to the requirement of insurance.
- Three (3) references of former clients with their contact information. If the firm does not have sufficient references, provide a letter of explanation.
- Describe your firm's experience managing government grants including federal Lead Grant Programs.
- Describe your firm's experience working with low-income households and/or low-income communities. Please be specific about your company's role. If no experience, please indicate N/A.
- Copy of your firm's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
- Copy of resumes for all professionals working under this proposal and contract.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by staff. The City may make reasonable investigations deemed necessary and proper to determine the ability of the Proposer to perform the work, and the Proposer shall furnish to the City all information for this purpose that may be requested. The City reserves the right to reject any offer if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, the Proposer fails to satisfy the City that the Proposer is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the work described therein.

Criteria for evaluation includes:

LEGALS

1. Required Certifications & Documentation (30%)
2. Overall cost of Services (20%)
3. Capacity to perform services identified (40%)
4. M/WBE (10%)

RFP SUBMISSION PROCESS:

Proposal deadline: Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 PM CST, July 17, 2020. Sealed proposals must be received in the Community Development Department at the address referenced below. Submittal should include three (3) hard copies including signatures and one (1) USB. No proposals received by fax or e-mail transmission will be accepted. Your proposal may be delivered by hand or via the US Postal Service as long as the proposal is received in our office by the Proposal Due Date and Time; postmark dates will not be considered.

Community Development Department
Room 1000- 10th Floor, City Hall
710 North 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203

Proposers are asked to note on the outside of the proposal package:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
LEAD SAFE HOUSING PROGRAM – PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES

QUESTIONS:

Please direct all questions regarding this Request for Proposals (RFP) to:

Lareisha Higginbottom
(205) 254-2309
Lareisha.higginbottom@birminghamal.gov

BT07/02/2020

LEAD SAFE HOUSING PROGRAM CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

for
ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING SERVICES
ASBESTOS, AIR QUALITY, RADON AND LEAD INSPECTION, RISK ASSESSMENT AND CLEARANCE TESTING

The City of Birmingham, Alabama is now accepting proposals from Certified Firms to provide Asbestos, Air Quality, Radon and combination Lead Inspections & Risk Assessments, and Clearance testing for approximately 175 to 250 units. Project Design services may be requested for multi-family projects (as needed). The City reserves the right to select more than one Testing Firm. If more than one firm is selected, testing and other service requests will alternate between firms depending on capacity to meet both program and staff deadlines. This contract will last for a period of 30 months.

ELIGIBILITY: All Firms, Inspectors, Risk Assessors, and Project Designers must have current AL certifications in accordance with Chapter 37A of Title 22, Code of Ala. 1975, and Chapter 822-X-1 as authorized by Acts 1997, No.97-553, the Alabama Lead Reduction Act of 1997. As the City's Housing Rehabilitation

Programs are federally funded, all activities performed under this RFP shall be in accordance with the HUD Regulation on Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Federally-owned Housing and Housing Receiving Federal Assistance, dated September 1999, with all subsequent revisions to date and the Rules of the Alabama State Board of Health Chapter 420-3-27-.01 et al.

Firms must demonstrate significant experience in the field of lead-based paint testing, risk assessment and project design. Firms must also be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of all required HUD forms to be included in Risk Assessment reports as well as testing protocols. All key project personnel shall be on staff and possess the proper certifications. This includes certified lead paint Risk Assessors, Inspectors, and Project Designers. Firms utilizing floor plan rendering software (i.e. AutoCAD) when preparing reports, will be preferred. The City reserves the right to interview selected applicants, if necessary.

The City of Birmingham is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or provision of services. In accordance with HUD's Section 3 program and City and State of Alabama purchasing requirements, the City shall take affirmative steps to ensure that small, disadvantaged and minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus firms are solicited whenever there are potential qualified sources. The City shall also consider the feasibility of dividing total requirements into small tasks or quantities as to permit maximum participation by small, disadvantaged and minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus firms. All procurement carried out with Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program funds, where the City is a direct party, shall be carried out in a manner that provides maximum free and open competition. Procurement policies will not restrict or eliminate competition. The City shall not place unreasonable requirements on firms for them to qualify to do business.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Firms are required to provide testing results in compliance with the latest HUD/EPA issued guidance on levels of lead in dust in homes. As of June 21, 2019, firms must be able to report results for the following dust-lead action levels and clearance action levels.

New Dust-Lead Action Levels:

Floors: > 10 µg/ft²
Window Sills: > 100 µg/ft²

New Lead Clearance Action Levels:

Interior Floors: < 10 µg/ft²
Porch Floors: < 40 µg/ft²
Window Sills: < 100 µg/ft²
Window Troughs: Window Sills: < 100 µg/ft²

In order to ensure your firm has the ability to report on clearance levels, you must prove that the laboratory you use is recognized by EPA under its National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP).

- All inspections and risk assessments reports must be conducted and documented in accordance with Chapter 5 and 7 of the HUD Guidelines.
- Every room equivalent must be identified in the property sketch and every building component must be represented in the sampling scheme (identified in the XRF test result report) used to test a property.
- You must conduct a complete and full lead-paint inspection

and risk assessment for each unit.

- Composite sampling for the risk assessment and clearance of lead hazards is not allowed.
- All windows must be tested, photographed and identified within the XRF test result report.
- The LI/RA report should indicate the order in which acceptable hazard control options for a given hazard fall in terms of relative initial cost.
- In addition to cost, the LI/RA should identify the feasibility of particular treatments, taking into account whether they are unlikely to be effective or are suitable to eliminate the hazards.

Your firm must be able to obtain a Data Universal Number (DUNS) number and register with System for Award Management (SAM) if your firm is selected.

TIMELINE:

- RFP Issued: Tuesday, May 26, 2020
 - RFP Responses Due: July 17, 2020
 - Proposal Selection Date: * July 24, 2020 (Approximation)
 - Contract Award Date: * July 31, 2020 (Approximation)
 - Contract Service Start Date: * August 3, 2020 (Approximation)
- *These dates are subject to change.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Please review these specifications carefully and provide the following items:

1. Letter summarizing your company profile, history and staffing
2. Copy of Firm Lead Testing, Radon, Asbestos, Air Quality and Project Design certification. Your lead testing laboratory's certification by EPA under its National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP).
3. Copy of all Inspector and Risk Assessor, Asbestos, Radon, Air Quality Certifications, for all professionals working under this proposal and contract.
4. Proof of Liability Insurance. All contractors shall have continuous Worker's Compensation & General Liability Insurance policies. Reference Alabama Code § 25-5-8 Industrial Relations and Labor for additional information pertaining to the requirement of insurance.
5. Three (3) references of former clients with their contact information. If the firm does not have sufficient references, provide a letter of explanation.
6. List of all subcontractors and/or Laboratories utilized by your firm. Certifications should be included.
7. Copy of a Lead Inspection / Risk Assessment, Lead Clearance, Asbestos, Radon, and Air Quality Reports completed within the past 6 months (note: personal client info may be blacked out).
8. An itemized Bid / Cost Summary for LI/RA(s) (Lead Inspection & Risk Assessment) and Clearances and individual additional dust wipe samples, Asbestos, Radon and Air Quality. Please provide bids assuming (1) unit at a time and also considering bundled units ordered (i.e. 2-4 units or 5-9 units or 10+ units) at one time. Include additional cost(s) if a case is ordered as a "rush" job. Price should reflect 8 dust wipe samples for both LI/RA and clearance.

A time schedule reflecting the capacity and the turn-around time for your firm's services. Time from ordering a LI/RA to the actual testing and delivery of the LI/RA report or turn around time for results and report delivery for clearance testing.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by staff. The City may make reasonable investigations deemed necessary and proper to determine the ability of the Proposer to perform the work,

and the Proposer shall furnish to The City all information for this purpose that may be requested. The City reserves the right to reject any offer if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, the Proposer fails to satisfy The City that the Proposer is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the work described therein.

Criteria for evaluation include:

1. Required License(s) & Certifications (30%)
2. Quality of Work (20%)
3. Overall cost of Services (20%)
4. Capacity (20%)
5. M/WBE (10%)

RFP SUBMISSION PROCESS:

Proposal deadline: Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 PM CST, July 17, 2020. Sealed proposals must be received in the Community Development Department at the address referenced below. Submittal should include three (3) hard copies including signatures and one (1) USB. No proposals received by fax or e-mail transmission will be accepted. Your proposal may be delivered by hand or via the US Postal Service as long as the proposal is received in our office by the Proposal Due Date and Time; postmark dates will not be considered.

Community Development Department
Room 1000- 10th Floor, City Hall
710 North 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203

Proposers are asked to note on the outside of the proposal package:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
LEAD SAFE HOUSING PROGRAM - ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING SERVICES

QUESTIONS:

Please direct all questions regarding this Request for Proposals (RFP) to:

Lareisha Higginbottom
(205) 254-2309
Lareisha.higginbottom@birminghamal.gov

BT07/02/2020

NOTICE

Jefferson County, Alabama Board of Equalization & Adjustments
Notice of Valuation of Property

In accordance with State of Alabama Code, Section 40-2-18, the Jefferson County, Alabama Board of Equalization has set 2020 real property value for all parcels located in Jefferson County, Alabama. Beginning on June 29, 2020 these values are available for public inspection in the Birmingham and Bessemer Courthouse's Board of Equalization or you may log on to the Board of Equalization website to locate the value. Objections must be filed in writing within 30 calendar days of the objection notice date. Instructions addressing objections to value are also available on our website at: boe.jccal.org.

BT07/02/2020



THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES, SINCE 1964

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THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES

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WORD ON THE STREET

We asked Birmingham-area residents:

What is best for students in the fall, in-person or remote classes?

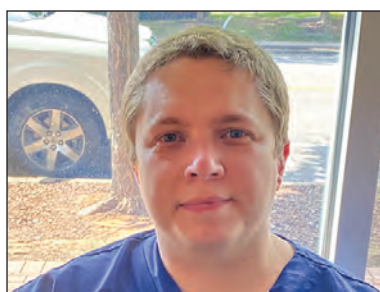


LANESE BOYD: *"I believe if you can practice the social distancing and if the staff at the schools are committed to making sure the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines are followed, some students may be comfortable in coming back to the classrooms. However, at the point we are now [seeing] more cases than less, then it is probably better that we all maintain a virtual classroom."*



DEBBI CLONTS: *"Return to in-person classes because parents are not trained to be teachers and as a person with a background in early childhood education, young kids learn in social situations and from peers. I think it is very important that they have that interaction with others because you learn more from them than you do a teacher . . . [parents] shouldn't be responsible for their children's education, we should."*

COMPILED
BY ERICA
WRIGHT



GILCHRIST BARNBY: *"I think its best that everyone consider the situation they are in. For example, large groups are probably not the best idea right now, so in-person might not be best. But if that is the route taken, I think there needs to be education on how to wear masks and gloves and other personal protection equipment and extra precautions."*



TRACEY ALVEY: *"I think children should return to in-person learning in the fall [because] it is hard enough for parents without having the burden of educating their kids as well. Libraries are closed, some kids don't have access to internet, so I believe it is better to have in-person instruction where they can have access to those resources and get to be around their peers and learn like how they are used to."*

BIRMINGHAM

Prayer vigil will be held for boy, 8, killed at Galleria Mall

Times staff report

A prayer vigil will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, in the upper, far left parking lot of the Macy's Department Store at the Riverchase Galleria in memory of 8-year old, Royta Giles, who died in the tragic shooting that took place at the Riverchase Galleria Mall on Friday, July 3.

Hoover City Councilman Derrick Murphy, who will host the prayer, said he will be joined by family members of the 8-year old, local clergy, city and county officials and members of the Riverchase Galleria management team.

Murphy said the focus of the vigil will be twofold. "First, I feel it is imperative that we pray for Royta's family and for all of the victims injured in this senseless shooting. Not only will we pray for them, but for everyone who was at the mall that day and experienced trauma in some way. It is also important that we pray for our first responders and our community as a whole. We are all hurting from this situation. Now is the time to pray and support each other, knowing we will get through this together."

"We must also address the issue of gun violence in our region. Our young people have too many easy avenues through which they can obtain guns. That, coupled with their inability or unwillingness to solve disagreements effectively is leading to the loss of too many lives. There must be a change, it must start now, and it must start with the heart."

Earlier this week, Hoover Police Department announced 22-year-old Montez Moses Coleman of Birmingham was arrested as a suspect in the shooting that killed Royta and injured three others.

Police said Coleman has been charged with capital murder and three counts of assault second degree.

On Tuesday, Hoover police said they had made two additional arrests in the deadly shooting.

Hoover Police Chief Nick Derzis said two 19-year-olds from Birmingham — Demetrius Dewayne Jackson Jr. and King Gary Williams — have also been charged in the shootout near the food court.

According to Hoover PD, officers on the scene were alerted to a male running through the parking deck of the Hyatt Regency Hotel with a firearm. Coleman was located by authorities and taken into custody.

Upon investigation of the incident, police said the suspect got into a verbal argument with a group of males on the first level of the mall, near the food court.

If anyone has any information about this case, you are asked to call Sergeant Matthew Savage at 205-739-6780. If you wish to remain anonymous and qualify for a cash reward, you are encouraged to call Crime Stoppers of Metro Alabama at 205-254-7777.



ROYTA GILES

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ON THE COVER

From left: Eric Hall, Jilisa Milton and Cara McClure, co-founders, Black Lives Matter Birmingham. (AMARR CROSKY, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES) FOR MORE ON BLM IN BIRMINGHAM, SEE PAGE 12.

BIRMINGHAM

A LOOK INSIDE JIMMIE HALE MISSION

BY BETH CUNNINGHAM
bhamnow.com

One of the most well-known and beloved nonprofits in Birmingham, Jimmie Hale Mission has been making a difference in the Magic City for over 75 years. Today, it is a dynamic and impactful organization that spreads love in all kinds of ways to all kinds of people. Learn more about their mission and how you can be a part of it.

JIMMIE HALE MISSION: THE PAST

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Jimmie Hale was known as the town drunk. He began rewriting his story after giving his life to Christ, and today, the organization that carries his name has impacted countless Birmingham citizens.

Armed with a desire to share God's life-changing love with others and to help those walking where he had, Jimmie set out to create a place where homeless men could find encouragement and hope. Seventy-five years later, Jimmie Hale Mission (JHM) is a safe haven for people from all walks of life.

Jimmie founded the Mission in 1944 with his wife, Miss Jessie Davis — a schoolteacher from Moundville. Following Jimmie's passing just eight months later, Jessie refused to forfeit her commitment to the dream she and her husband shared.

As a pregnant widow and an incredible woman of faith her resolve would prove to be the foundation on which the Mission would stand for generations to come. Curious about the history of JHM? Read more.

JIMMIE HALE MISSION: THE PRESENT

For three quarters of a century, the Jimmie Hale Mission has been helping men afflicted by homelessness in downtown Birmingham through education remediation, job readiness and spiritual support.

Throughout their operation, JHM has



In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Jimmie Hale was known as the town drunk. He began rewriting his story after giving his life to Christ, and today, the organization that carries his name has impacted countless Birmingham citizens. (PHOTO COURTESY JIMMIE HALE MISSION)

expanded its efforts to impact even more citizens of our community, including women and children and those impacted by addiction.

Today, JHM functions in three branches, each with its own ministry and focus.

1. Jimmie Hale Mission

The original location, located in downtown Birmingham, has helped transform thousands of lives by addressing homelessness and addiction over the years. As a nonprofit, the organization has been funded since the beginning by citizens across the state of Alabama.

Their dynamic approach to recovery and independence is offered for free to those in need. JHM's mission is as follows:

"To transform adults directly affected by homelessness, poverty-thinking, and/or addiction, into those who lead healthy, self-sufficient and productive lives for the glory of God."

Address: 3420 2nd Ave. North, Birmingham; Phone: (205) 323-5878

2. Jessie's Place

A home for mothers and children.

Named for Jimmie Hale's wife, Jessie's Place is a residential program located in the heart of downtown Birmingham that can accommodate up to 35 women and children.

Jessie's Place is a shelter for homeless women and children, but they also provide all kinds of support — from daily life skills training to job readiness to education remediation and more.

"We believe that providing a refuge for change will help ensure that these women become strong and self-sufficient members of society once again. Inside our doors, women and children find the way out."

Address: 2305 5th Avenue North, Birmingham; Phone: (205) 323-0170

3. Royal Pines

Royal Pines Recovery Center is a 13 to 15-week active addiction recovery program located in Hayden. This 40-bed facility rests on 75 acres of peaceful countryside, which

plays an integral role in helping clients focus on recovery.

The site is home to counseling offices, classrooms and exterior seating areas that allows plenty of space for clients to engage in the active recovery program. As with every location, Royal Pines includes a focus on educational training and job readiness.

"Royal Pines provides an immersive environment where men are equipped with the godly tools and training they need to overcome substance abuse, restore hope and build a better tomorrow."

Address: 5 Guinns Cove Rd. Hayden; Phone: (256) 352-9444

JIMMIE HALE MISSION: THE FUTURE

After 75 years of loving their neighbors and impacting their community, Jimmie Hale Mission is nowhere near done. In the future, they hope to keep expanding and improving their operation to serve the greater Birmingham community in the best way they can.

Michael Coleman, Executive Director, Jimmie Hale Mission, said, "We don't care what their brokenness is. I don't care where they've been — if they've been in prison, if they've been on the streets for 20 years. It doesn't matter what trauma they've been through, or abuse.

All we care about is if they want something different. And if they want something different, we're going to take them in and we're going to love them dynamically with the love of Christ and lay out for them a pathway to be restored."

If you want to be a part of this mission, call 205-323-5878. Want to keep up with Jimmie Hale Mission? Follow them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and never miss an update.

For more on the modern, mobile guide to Birmingham, visit bhamnow.com.

Cleveland 'Cleve' Eaton, Hall of Fame jazz great, dies at 80

BY BARNETT WRIGHT
The Birmingham Times

Cleveland "Cleve" Eaton, the Hall of Fame jazz legend from Fairfield, died on Sunday morning. He was 80.

"He was just a wonderful man who treated me like a queen and took care of [his children and grandchildren]," said his wife Myra Eaton. "I've had a great life with him. He was the greatest husband, the greatest bass player in the world, even if I wasn't married to him."

The Eatons were approaching their 44th wedding anniversary in August.

In a Facebook post on Sunday, Kwani Dickerson Carson, Mr. Eaton's daughter, wrote her father was "our Superman . . . a man's man."

"He met my mama and said she was the 'baddest woman' he's ever laid eyes on and he's a guy outta Fairfield Ala. who married a woman that made heads turn all over the world. Lol.

"He was my Hero. He saved my mama and my siblings from the worst of the worst and promised to protect and love us forever and ever. And he did."

Mr. Eaton was inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame in 1979 and the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 2008 and over the



Cleveland 'Cleve' Eaton, the Hall of Fame jazz legend from Fairfield, died on Sunday morning. He was 80. (PROVIDED PHOTO)

course of his career wrote more than 300 songs performing with some of the greatest names in music including Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Frank Sinatra and Sarah Vaughn.

Eaton was born in Fairfield on August 31, 1939 and began as a child musician, mastering his mother's piano, the trumpet, and the saxophone.

According to Mr. Eaton his relationship with the bass began when he saw a bass case in the car of John Springer, a music instructor at Fairfield Industrial High. At first Mr. Eaton said he didn't know what he thought was in

the case, "for all he knew it could be a body." But when Springer showed him it was a bass, and played it for him Mr. Eaton's love for the instrument began.

Mr. Eaton would go on to say that, of all the instructors he encountered as he rose through the ranks of the top bass players in the world, no one taught him more than John Springer.

Mr. Eaton played in a jazz group at Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial, which became Tennessee State, in Nashville while earning his Bachelor of Music degree and where he pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. He moved to Chicago where he would eventually hook up first with the Ike Cole Trio and then the Ramsey Lewis Trio.

Mr. Eaton's relationship with the noted Ramsey Lewis was what initially propelled Mr. Eaton into national recognition, which included a 10-year stint with that Trio and included multiple gold records and the Grammy for the song, "Sun Goddess."

While working with Ramsey Mr. Eaton noted the band had a young phenomenon on drums named Maurice White who left and formed his own group: Earth, Wind and Fire, which would be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Mr. Eaton would also leave the Ramsey

Lewis Trio and said he trusted in God to lead him in the right way. That way would come in the form of an offer to serve as a two-week fill in for the Count Basie Orchestra. Two weeks would turn into 17 years and Count Basie declared Mr. Eaton "the Count's Bassist."

"He lived a long and incredible life that he wouldn't have changed for anything in the world," his daughter wrote on Facebook. "He was terribly humble and cool but I always told him he was the MAN. The Greatest. Just wanted to show the world that folks from ALABAMA were Awesome. He wanted to be THE world's Best Bass Player. He was."

Mr. Eaton was preceded in death by his son Cleveland Eaton III and daughter Margalita Eaton. He is survived by his wife, Myra; his children, Kwani Dickerson Carson, Lothair Eaton, Andre Eaton, Keena Eaton Kelley, Tania Adams, Kole Anderson; grandchildren Karden, Kameron and Kasey Dickerson; Benjamin Adams, Shandre' Eaton Vail, Aaliyah Eaton, Keenan Rogers, Kentrelle Bonnor-Butler, Andre Eaton Jr.; great grandchildren Andre Eaton III, Keeona, Keenan Jr., KyRese, Kabria and KaReem Rogers, Derrick, Mi'Kel and Jakorian Vail. Services are being handled by Davenport & Harris Funeral Home.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jeffco Treasurer's race: Eyrika Parker and Roderick 'Rod' Scott

BY BARNETT WRIGHT
The Birmingham Times

The only Jefferson County race on the ballot in next Tuesday's, July 14 runoff election will be for Treasurer where Democrats Eyrika Parker, a banker, and Roderick "Rod" Scott, state lawmaker, are vying for the office.

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In the March 5 Democratic primary, Parker received 35,991 votes or 41.60 percent and Scott 25,660 or 29.66 percent, not the 50.1 percent needed to win outright, but enough to oust incumbent Jefferson County Treasurer Mike Miles, who finished third. The March 31 runoff was delayed over COVID-19 concerns.

Statewide, the most closely watched race is the battle between Republicans Tommy Tuberville and Jeff Sessions for the U.S. Senate to see who will face incumbent Democrat Doug Jones in the November general election.

Personal safety and public health is obviously a concern for many this year. Jefferson County is taking that seriously and preparing measures well in advance.

Barry Stephenson, Jefferson County Board of Registrars, Chairman, told bhamnow.com, "We will have personal protection equipment for the poll workers. They'll have facemasks, gloves, disinfectant and isopropyl alcohol wipes. There will be hand sanitizer and signage about social distancing. ..."

Here are bios for the candidates in the Jefferson County Treasurer's race.

EYRIKA PARKER

Parker is a lifelong Birmingham resident. She attended John Carroll Catholic High School where she graduated in 1992 and the University of South Alabama, finishing in 1998. She also attended Southern University

Law Center, class of 2002. Parker has worked in the Jefferson County Circuit Clerk's office, South Trust Bank, pharmaceutical litigation, executive producer of radio and television shows and co-host of Alabama's oldest morning talk radio show. Parker was on the Jefferson County Mural Committee, Hopewell Revitalization Project, has prepared meals for local football and basketball teams, sponsored and committed to local breast cancer awareness events, sponsored local events for Sickle Cell Awareness Month, fed more than 100 families on a monthly basis through efforts to combat homelessness and hunger and obtained abandoned properties to put to good use for nonprofit organizations.



EYRIKA PARKER

ROD SCOTT

Rod Scott, a resident of Fairfield, is a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, representing District 55. Scott assumed office in 2006. He received his M.B.A. from the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College and his B.A. in economics from Yale University. His professional experience includes serving as a professor at Miles College. In the Legislature, he's been ranking minority member, education policy committee; ranking minority member, fiscal responsibility committee; vice chair, Jefferson County Legislation Committee; member, Technology and Research Committee; ranking minority member, Ways and Means Education Committee.



ROD SCOTT

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ELECTION DAY: WHAT TO KNOW

On Election Day, be sure to arrive with a valid form of identification. Options include the following valid documents:

- Alabama driver's license or non-driver ID card
- Alabama photo voter ID card
- State-issued ID (from Alabama or another state)
- Federal-issued ID
- U.S. passport
- Employee ID from the Federal Government, State of Alabama, County, Municipality, Board or other Alabama entity
- Student or employee ID card issued by a college or university in the state, provided it includes a photo
- U.S. military ID card containing a photo
- Tribal ID card containing a photo
- At any polling location and in any election, if you run



into trouble, you can call the non-partisan Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683). You can also follow Jefferson County of Facebook and Twitter to keep up with any important updates.

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AN EYE ON BIRMINGHAM: CELEBRATING SPECIAL CITIZENS

Joya Peasant: Girl Scout member going for the Gold

BY JE'DON HOLLOWAY TALLEY

For the Birmingham Times

Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, meant envisioning something meaningful that would leave a lasting impression on her peers and her community, said Joya Peasant, an Alabama School of Fine Arts class of 2020 graduate.

For her, that meant producing a podcast through which teens and young adults could discuss experiences related to race, politics, stereotypes in the media, gender roles, and more.

Peasant, who will begin classes at Spelman College in Atlanta this fall, spent her 2019 spring break working on her "Black Without the Magic" podcast (available on Podcast.com and iTunes).

"I wanted to create [a podcast] for people to talk about certain things they face in the community that we don't usually talk about," Peasant said. "Colorism, gender stereotypes, what we do and don't see in the media, and how that can be a stereotype for [people of color]. I wanted to create an outlet for that because I didn't see any other [communication outlets] geared toward that."

Each girl earning the Gold Award demonstrates excellence through a leadership project totaling at least 80 hours.

"Eighty hours seemed difficult to clock at first," Peasant said. "I recorded the podcast within two hours, but with planning and working with my advisors and coming up with topics and questions and editing, the hours added up very quickly."

"Black Without the Magic" episodes focused on topics such as careers, college, race, and peaceful protests.

"My first episode [was called] 'The Division Between Non-Black Americans and Black Americans,'" the 18-year-old said. "[Topics were] mainly about race-related issues within our community. It didn't matter what type of race-related issue it was. It could have been more political, like when we did an episode about Democrats and Republicans, or it could be something not particularly race-related, which could be about [media representation]."

Peasant, who completed her episodes before the current civil unrest in the country, said she plans to cover the topic when she records a second season of her podcast during the second semester of her freshman year at Spelman: "The topics I would definitely do [in Season 2, would cover] police brutality, what civil unrest is, Juneteenth, and a Part Two about protests," she said.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Peasant has earned Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards.

"When I started high school, I remembered some other girls in my troop who earned the Gold Award, and I decided I would go after all three awards, too," she said.

An only child who has been committed to Scouting since age 5, Peasant said she has been inspired by her mother, DeNedra Peasant, who got into Girl Scouts at age 11. "[Girl Scouts] gave me an outlet to find



"As of right now, we don't know if we're going to be going to Atlanta or if I'm going to be at home doing virtual classes, but my hope is that I can go to Atlanta. Realistically, I know that that may not happen because of the increasing COVID-19 cases, but I'm still holding out hope that I will be able to go to school in the fall with the new friends that I am going to make." JOYA PEASANT

more girls to play with, and the stories of how [my mother] met most of her childhood friends during Girl Scouts made me want to [join]," said Peasant, who began as a Daisy and progressed through the Brownie, Junior, Cadet, Senior, and Ambassador levels; she also was voted onto the board of the Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama as a Girl Liaison at the age of 17.

Peasant hadn't always intended to stay with the Scouts for so long.

"Once I got older and met more people outside of my troop who stuck with it, it made me want to stick with it more, [as did] the activities we did that I fell in love with, like going camping with my troop members and selling Girl Scout cookies together," she said.

JOYA PEASANT

Joya Peasant is an Alabama School of Fine Arts class of 2020 graduate. Peasant, who earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, will begin classes at Spelman College in Atlanta, this fall. She spent her 2019 spring break working on her "Black Without the Magic" podcast (available on Podcast.com and iTunes). Peasant started her project in November 2018, planning out the podcast's first season, which consisted of eight episodes and launched in spring 2019. She received the Gold Award in May 2020. One of the biggest takeaways from the project was learning patience with mastering new skills.

REACHING THE GOLD

Although Peasant loved tackling tasks and initiatives with her fellow Girl Scouts, she also enjoyed having full control and being solely responsible for the success and completion of her Gold project.

"With the Bronze and Silver awards, you had other team members working with you, but this one was my idea," she said. "I had to come up with all the hours by myself. I had to come up with an advisor who was not a member of Girl Scouts. And I had to come up with my own budget, plans, and everything myself—with the help of an advisor."

Her advisors were Courtne and Jonathan Anderson, who are family friends and fellow members at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in downtown Birmingham.

Peasant started her project in November 2018, planning out the podcast's first season, which consisted of eight episodes and launched in spring 2019. She received the Gold Award in May 2020. One of the biggest takeaways from the project was learning patience with mastering new skills.

"One episode took about six hours to edit," Peasant said. "After I did it multiple times, it became rewarding. I sat back and saw that I learned to do it myself, and I felt like I could do anything because of that."

With high school and the Girl Scout Gold Award completed, Peasant and her parents, Patrick and DeNedra, are looking forward to her freshman year at Spelman College.

"As of right now, we don't know if we're going to be going to Atlanta or if I'm going to be at home doing virtual classes, but my hope is that I can go to Atlanta," Peasant said. "Realistically, I know that that may not happen because of the increasing COVID-19 cases, but I'm still holding out hope that I will be able to go to school in the fall with the new friends that I am going to make."

Peasant plans to major in psychology with international studies as her minor: "I want to be a psychiatrist," she said. "And the reason I chose international studies is because in the event that I want to travel and move to a different country, I'd be able to work in different countries."

Completing her Girl Scout Gold Award project has given Peasant the confidence to accomplish anything in life.

"I know I can work in different organizations," she said. "I can become the president of different organizations at Spelman, and I can come up with a plan to work on my business for the clinic I want to have as a psychiatrist."

"It's made me more competent in public speaking, my ability to talk to other people, and my ability to voice my opinion on everything, communication-wise, and know that my ideas can make a difference in the world."

Joya Peasant is one of more 10,000 girls and more than 3,900 adults in 36 counties who are Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama. To learn more about the Girl Scout Gold Award, visit girlscoutsna.org.

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The University of Alabama at Birmingham

HEALTH

AHA, AMA URGE WIDESPREAD SELF-MEASURED BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING: With doctors' visits down during the COVID-19 pandemic, experts say keeping tabs on your blood pressure at home is even more important. Adding the do-it-yourself method can be more effective and cheaper than office measurements alone, but improved patient education, provider training and insurance coverage are needed, according to a new policy statement by the American Heart Association and American Medical Association. "Self-monitoring blood pressure is not only convenient for patients – it is superior to in-office blood pressure measurements for predicting cardiovascular events and is potentially cost-effective," said Dr. Daichi Shimbo, associate professor of medicine at Columbia University Medical Center in New York.

To mask or not to mask – is it really a question?

As the coronavirus COVID-19 continues to rapidly spread throughout parts of our country at increasingly higher rates this summer and in increasingly wider age populations, many government officials have implemented a mandatory face covering/mask order for citizens in open public spaces. Most of the government-initiated health orders about mandatory face coverings/masks are somewhat similar and rooted in the most recent medical and scientific research about the prevention of the virus COVID-19. Even though health officials are providing evidence that wearing a face covering/ mask is vital in preventing and controlling the spread of the virus, many citizens (for whatever reason) remain unphased and refuse to wear any type of face covering/mask when out in public spaces.

The nature of this topic is extremely serious. Due to its seriousness a series will be devoted to this topic. The range of the articles will include scientific and medical research behind the face coverings/masks requirements, what health safety, and preventive measures they provide, what types are considered the best to wear during this pandemic and the proper maintenance. For accuracy about this subject, the information contained in this week's article will come

directly from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or medical professionals from the University of California San Francisco. Referencing these resources will help ensure that the data shared is research based and not based upon my understanding since I am not a scientist nor a medical professional.



BY SAMUETTA HILL DREW

Some believe the personal debate whether to wear or not to wear a mask comes from the CDC and The World Health Organization (WHO) earlier belief which has now completely reversed. This reversal now strongly favors the public wearing

face covering/mask.

"Their earlier beliefs were partially based on what was thought to be low disease prevalence" says infectious disease specialist Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, MD. He further states "this was based at the beginning on not having enough testing."

U.S. culture is also a factor influencing the personal debate for some wearing a mask. Americans unlike many Asians are unaccustomed to wearing face coverings/masks in public. Therefore, many have opted to ignore the local governmental orders based on recommendations from the CDC and WHO. Unfortunately, the personal debate about face covering/mask has shifted from a health question into a political position.



U.S. culture is also a factor influencing the personal debate for some wearing a mask. Americans unlike many Asians are unaccustomed to wearing face coverings/masks in public. (ADOBE STOCK PHOTO)

So, what evidence does the CDC and WHO now have that wearing a face covering/ mask is effective in preventing COVID-19?

There are several new findings supporting this decision. One category of evidence comes from laboratory studies of respiratory droplets generated when saying a simple phrase (note more about this topic will be

explored further in next week's article). The studies show that nearly all these droplets were blocked when the mouth was covered by a damp washcloth (do not dampen your mask).

Another study of people who had influenza or the common cold found that wearing a surgical mask significantly reduced the amount of these respiratory viruses emitted in droplets and aerosols. Another recent study showed that states and/or cities where mandated face covering/masks were in place, showed a slowdown in daily COVID-19 growth rate which became more apparent over time. It slowed from a 0.2 percent to 0.9 percent in a matter of weeks.

There are several additional studies supporting face coverings/masks, but one which appeared compelling looked at coronavirus deaths across 198 countries. The study found those with cultural norms or government policies favoring mask-wearing had lower death rates.

So, to Keep an Eye on Safety for you and your love ones let the recent research findings help answer the personal question to wear or not to wear a face covering/mask. If one abides by medical and scientific research findings wearing a mask ends the personal debate.

It is important to remember if you live inside of Jefferson County or visit public spaces in Jefferson County face covering/ masks are mandated.

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HEALTH

COVID-19: Cases increase; what now?

At least 15,000 Black Americans would still be alive if they had died of COVID-19 at the same rate as White Americans. This is according to publication of a recent study from the APM Research Lab called, "The Color of Coronavirus".

Just the latest in a barrage of information on COVID-19 and the pandemic. How do you make sense out of all of it?

How much of this do you need to know? What do you really need to do to protect you and your family?

Let's start at the beginning.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

According to the South China Morning Post, a 55-year-old individual from Hubei province in China may have been the first person to have contracted COVID-19 on Nov. 17, 2019. The COVID-19 virus first hit the United States in January 2020; the first death in February; and by March, the virus had hit all 50 states! Now, here we are six months later, after three months of "sheltering in place", and signs of "reopening" are popping up, while at the same time, some states and cities are having to close as soon as they open.

The media is continuing to bombard us with more information than any of us could, reasonably, be expected to process. We've now passed a half-million cases around the world, and 2.5 million infection cases, and more than 125,000 deaths in the United States.

At this rate, half of the entire population of the United States will be infected by the end of the year.

In light of these dismal statistics and facts, we still aren't sure how bad things really are. It seems that the data that is being collected and reported to us is all over the place. When it comes to the death count, 63 percent of all the deaths in the United States are reported as much as 10 days from the date of death. And that's after an actual death certificate is issued. Not to mention that some states report daily, some report weekly, and some report monthly.

It takes extra time to code COVID-19 deaths. While 80 percent of deaths are electronically processed and coded by National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within minutes, most deaths from COVID-19 must be coded by a person, which takes an average of seven days.

Oh yeah, then there's the vaccine! In spite of the fact that a successful vaccine clinical trial typically takes 10 years, we're being promised one as early as January 2021, by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert. Dr. Francis Collins,

In light of these dismal statistics and facts, we still aren't sure how bad things really are. It seems that the data that is being collected and reported to us is all over the place. When it comes to the death count, 63 percent of all the deaths in the United States are reported as much as 10 days from the date of death.

director of the National Institutes of Health, is even more optimistic. He believes, "if all goes well, maybe as many as 100 million doses by early 2021" would be possible, which is truly a long shot if 10 years is the typical amount of time we're hearing.

According to Gilead, the pharmaceutical company, a patient will require six doses, at \$520 apiece, over five days, for a total of \$2,340. That's the cost to the hospital; who knows how much it will cost the patient.

In the meantime, testing is the buzzword traveling throughout communities across the nation. At this time, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) doesn't require the manufacturers of testing kits to provide information on the accuracy of the tests.

One notable controversy was over a test kit produced by Abbott Laboratories. The FDA and other monitors found that Abbott's "rapid-test" missed between a third to one-half of infections that were identified correctly by another competing manufacturer's test kit. We should remember that getting

tested is not enough to give you relief from the stress and worry about infection from the coronavirus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) wants us to keep in mind that when it comes to testing, "The test result only means that you did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing," the CDC says. "You might test negative if the sample was collected early in your infection and test positive later during your illness. You could also be exposed to COVID-19 after the test and get infected then."

So, what can we do to protect ourselves and our families?

First, each one of us has to decide, and declare to ourselves, "do I want to live, or do I want to die?" All too often, we just not are fully committed to make sacrifices and efforts that are in our own best interest. We can greatly improve our chances of making it through this pandemic, but, like the old man was asked, "Do you want to be well?"

If so, then all we need to do is to practice the 3 W's:

Wash your hands thoroughly and often; wear a mask; and watch how close anyone is to you, or vice versa.

Glenn Ellis is Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Research Bioethics Fellow. He is author of *Which Doctor?* and *Information is the Best Medicine*. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com.

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UAB THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Knowledge that will change your world

UAB NEWS

Study released on culturally based end-of-life care protocols

BY HOLLY GAINER
UAB News

Culture shapes how people make meaning out of illness, suffering and dying, and it influences their responses to diagnosis, prognosis and treatment preferences. Researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham have created the first culturally based protocol for patients living with a serious illness or facing end-of-life care.

The protocol, which was published in *Health Equity*, was developed by Ronit Elk, Ph.D., a researcher in the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics and Palliative Care at UAB, in partnership with a Community Advisory Board made up of African Americans and white community members living in Beaufort, South Carolina.

"End-of-life care values in the United States are historically rooted in values that represent the cultural and religious values of the white middle class, values that often do not apply, or even contradict, the values of people of different cultures or ethnicities," Elk said. "Lack of respect for cultural differences may compromise care for seriously ill minority patients. Until recently, culturally appropriate models of palliative and end-of-life care have not been available in the United States."

The Advisory Board members included those who had cared for a loved one living with a serious illness or had been a caregiver to a loved one who had recently died, community leaders, and hospital staff, with equal



Researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham have created the first culturally based protocol for patients living with a serious illness or facing end-of-life care. (ADOBE STOCK PHOTO)

numbers of African American and white members. Developing the protocol took three and a half years of monthly meetings.

"This is the very first study that has developed a program based on African American and white rural Southerners' cultural values and was created by community members. It is a model that can be replicated for so many other programs that want to understand and respect what people in underserved commu-

nities value," Elk said.

Elk is mentoring other palliative care physicians in Ghana, Puerto Rico and, next year, South Africa, in using this model in their countries. Since the paper has been published, researchers across the United States have contacted Elk to find out how they can replicate it in other minority populations.

Gardenia Simmons-White, a member of the Community Advisory Board, says work-

ing with the advisory group and learning of each other's beliefs helped them create the protocol and form a mutual respect of each other's cultures.

"When you take care of people, you care for people of all different nationalities and beliefs, and you have to understand that everyone has different beliefs," Simmons-White said. "You have to understand that everyone's culture is different, and it is especially true of how African Americans and Caucasians react to end-of-life diagnoses. We need to know each other's cultures in order to ask questions and not have stereotypical beliefs. And we need to understand our history in order to have respect."

"This is an example of what is possible when health care providers truly listen to the voices of underserved or underrepresented groups, and build health care programs based on those communities' cultural values and preferences," Elk explained. "We are now conducting a randomized controlled trial to test the efficacy of this culturally based intervention in three Southern rural hospitals in three states: Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina."

Other authors of the paper include Marie Bakitas, DNSc, a professor of nursing at the UAB School of Nursing; Linda Emanuel, M.D., and Joshua Hauser, M.D., of Northwestern University; and Sue Levkoff, Sc.D., of the University of South Carolina.

Visit the *Health Equity* website to read the protocol and learn more about the study.



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'ALWAYS BE OPEN, HONEST'



BY JE'DON HOLLOWAY-TALLEY
Special to the Birmingham Times

You Had Me at Hello highlights married couples and the love that binds them. If you would like to be considered for a future "Hello" column, or know someone, please send nominations to Erica Wright ewright@birminghamtimes.com. Include the couple's name, contact number(s) and what makes their love story unique.

LOVIE AND LA'KEESHA MAY

Live: Inverness

Married: July 21, 2012

Met: Summer 2008 at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in West End where the two sang in the choir.

"He was a minister and drove the church van, and we would all go out to eat with different church members," La'Keesha said. "We've always been there for each other through hard times and difficult relationships...but I never thought about him like that. I thought I was never the type of woman that he would want to date.... and I had a son."

Although La'Keesha said that she never thought about Lovie romantically, Lovie knew something was going on "she started bringing me breakfast every Sunday morning," he laughed. "She started hanging out with me more, she was a cool person and down to earth. I wanted somebody that could understand soul and spirit..."

In 2011, Lovie was given a prophecy from a fellow minister that God wanted Lovie and La' Keesha to become one.

"I was dropping Pastor Sherry Swope [one of the ministers at Mt. Calvary] off at home, and she said, 'I believe Keesha is your wife. The Lord told me to tell you that she was going to be your wife. I got home and got on my laptop and Facebook messaged La'Keesha about the prophecy I just got... She was coming out of a bad relationship... I told her the ball was in her court.'"

First date: Spring 2011 at Ryan's in Gardendale. Lovie and La'Keesha, along with another couple from the church went out to eat. They went as a group, but got separate tables.

"I didn't have any jitters, and I wasn't nervous because I was comfortable around him. Only difference was now we were a couple," La'Keesha said. "We enjoyed ourselves, [La'Keesha's son Adarrell was 4 at the time], and he was with us, and so was minister



Lovie and La'Keesha May met in 2008 at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. The couple married four years later. (PROVIDED PHOTOS)

Sherry, the one who prophesied to us..."

Lovie said he was already in love with her, "I was looking in her eyes, I knew she was going to be my wife."

The turn: On April 27, 2011 when tornadoes swept through Alabama causing major devastation in Pratt City, where Lovie lived. La'Keesha was unable to contact Lovie, which heightened her sense of love and concern for him.

"I realized I was falling in love with this man, he accepted my child, and I saw that he's going to add to me and not take away from me, and I needed him in my life," La'Keesha said.

For Lovie, the tornado events revealed how deep La'Keesha's love had become. "I'd never had anyone who cared so much for me, that she was calling around to different people's houses trying to find me and see if I was ok... The power was out everywhere, to know that she sat in her car to charge her phone to keep calling around trying to find me [was eye opening]," Lovie said.

The proposal: June 1, 2011, in the Gardendale Walmart Parking lot one night after Bible study. Lovie was on van duty, and after dropping off everyone except Pastor

Swope, who was in on the plan, Lovie proposed.

"I made up the crazy excuse that my grandmother wanted some peaches... so we had to pull over at Walmart so I could go in and get them. The plan was to go in and buy a ring and come back out and propose but the jewelry counter was closed, so I came back out and did it anyway," Lovie said. "I opened up Keesha's door and I was pretending that the tire on her side was low and I needed her to get out and look at it... When she was looking, I got down on both knees and I said 'baby, we've only been together a few months, but I believe God brought us together by divine intervention, and I know that we've both been through a lot, and I'm not gonna guarantee that I'm going to be the perfect husband, but I guarantee you that I will love you eternally and no matter what we go through, our love and bond will stand. Will you marry me?' And she started jumping all over me screaming yes, yes, yes."

"I was surprised, and I was excited... 'I was so excited for the next day, I couldn't wait to go back to [Walmart] and get my ring,'" La'Keesha laughed.

The wedding: Mt. Calvary Missionary



Baptist Church, officiated by Pastor Raymond Whitsey. Their colors were purple, platinum, and white.

Most memorable for the bride was being escorted down the aisle by her father and young son, and the surprisingly large attendance at their wedding. "We had invited a lot of people to the wedding, but we didn't get a lot of [RSVP's], so when the doors opened and I walked down the aisle and saw all the people who love and support us there was so heartwarming..." La'Keesha said.

Most memorable for the groom was presenting a gift he had for his bride at their wedding reception. "I surprised her with a 12 carat yellow diamond ring at the reception... and I was happy to be able to give her that ring and seal the union," Lovie said.

They honeymooned in Pensacola Florida. "We got sunburned together at the beach, it was terrible. We had to rub ointment on each other and learned hot water showers was not good for sunburn," La'Keesha laughed.

Words of wisdom: "Always be open and honest with your partner no matter how hard it is, or how you think it may hurt them," Lovie said. "Honesty is most important and if you love a person you'll give them that. You have to be committed to being married, but you also have to be committed to doing the work to stay married, because marriage is not easy, it's a lot of work. You have to make sure you understand each other in every area of your marriage."

La'Keesha said, "Communication, verbal and non-verbal, is [key] because you might not want to say certain things, but your body language will say it all. Learn your partner's communication style, learn how they communicate with you. In order to know somebody and for your relationship to work, you have to be willing to not only talk to each other but also listen to each other..."

Happily ever after: The May's have three children: Adarrell, 14, Lovie V, 6, Zionah, 2.

La'Keesha, 34, is a Chicago native who moved to Birmingham in 1997. She attended West End High School, and works as a Customer Service Supervisor for AT&T.

Lovie, 36, is from Jamaica Queens, NY and moved to Birmingham in 1996. He attended Ensley High School, and C.L. Pointer Seminary School in Birmingham. Lovie works as a Retail Customer Service Rep at a Birmingham retail establishment.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, both La'Keesha and Lovie have continued to work at the respective offices.

COVER STORY

MAKING SURE BLACK LIVES MATTER IN BIRMINGHAM

(First of two parts on fight against racial injustice in Birmingham)

BY AMEERA STEWARD

For the Birmingham Times

On a recent humid Friday afternoon, Eric Hall, Jilisa Milton, and Cara McClure did what they do best — they took to the streets of downtown Birmingham.

The gathering was not for one of the marches the trio has led or participated in as co-founders of Black Lives Matter (BLM) Birmingham. They were downtown to be photographed for a feature story on the BLM organization, which has become part of a galvanizing force for worldwide protests in the two months since the death of George Floyd, the African American man killed by police in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Even without hundreds of demonstrators filling the streets on this holiday weekend, the BLM Birmingham leaders hear voices of support from passersby, Black and white, on 3rd Avenue North outside of the Alabama Theater.

Present were Hall, 33, a former neighborhood association officer; Milton, 32, a University of Alabama graduate with degrees in law and social work; and McClure, 50, a strategist who recruited the others to establish the Magic City's BLM chapter.

For these three activists, BLM Birmingham has become more than a rallying cry, organization, or a movement — it's their life's work.

"We want to affirm and uplift all Black lives," Hall said. "People have grown tired [of racial injustice], and they are demanding for change in their communities not just on the federal level but on the local level."

The group has already been instrumental in various causes on the local level. Last month, BLM Birmingham called on the city to dismiss inciting to riot charges against Jermaine "Funnymaine" Johnson, contending that the comedian was innocent of charges that stemmed from civil unrest in downtown Birmingham.

Charges against Johnson were dismissed the following week.

When City Council President William Parker in mid-June talked of possibly renaming 16th Street North to Black Lives Matter Boulevard, McClure, Hall, and Milton signed an "Open Letter to Birmingham Leaders" in opposition to the proposal. Their names were included as part of "A Group of Movement Voices" in a letter to Parker, the Birmingham City Council, and the City of Birmingham.

Parker's plan was withdrawn.

In early 2017, BLM and others were outspoken against the Birmingham Violence Reduction Initiative (BVRI), a city-led effort during which police vehicles, including a SWAT truck and multiple officers in camouflage, poured into the Central Pratt community alarming some residents.

"We worked really hard to stop the [BVRI] because it involved a very heavy sur-



From left: Jilisa Milton, Cara McClure and Eric Hall, co-founders, Black Lives Matter Birmingham. For these three activists, BLM Birmingham has become more than a rallying cry, organization, or a movement — it's their life's work. (AMARR CROSKY, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES)

veillance component," Milton said. "We did public campaigns against it. We sat down with officials against it. ... It was very organic. ... We wrote opinions."

Across the nation and certainly in Birmingham, many, like the passersby in downtown, are voicing mounting support for the BLM movement and several of its objectives, including divestment from the police and investment in Black communities, as well as immediate relief for communities and community control.

'UNBREAKABLE BOND'

McClure remembers the early meetings with Milton and Hall in the living room of her Birmingham apartment, "where we built an unbreakable bond," she said.

"We were able to create a family. ... We shared meals. When [Milton] needed to come to Birmingham to study, she came to my house. ... [Hall] would come by, and we just took over the living room. It was a special time that I will never forget because they were like my energy."

Milton would drive up from Tuscaloosa, where she was enrolled at the University of Alabama, and Hall would come over

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

COVER STORY

Eric Hall,
co-founder, Black
Lives Matter
Birmingham. (AMARR
CROSKEY PHOTOS, FOR
THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES)

BLM'S ERIC HALL ON MATTERS OF THE MOVEMENT

BY AMEERA STEWARD
For the Birmingham Times

Activist Eric Hall grew up in two cities with names that make people think of Black lives.

The 33-year-old is originally from Flint, Michigan, a town known nationally for not providing clean drinking water to its mostly African American population. At age 9, he moved from there to Birmingham, a city with a name synonymous with the Civil Rights Movement.

"If I can do something today that will make life better for people tomorrow, then I feel like I will have accomplished what I was meant to do," Hall said. "So, I live life each day to make a difference for not just me but for others ... that they have better days ahead. ... I just uplift all of my ancestors who have died. Their blood lays in the street, ... so I just want to honor their legacy, to honor their names, to fight."

Hall is a co-founder of Black Lives Matter (BLM) Birmingham, the local chapter of a movement dedicated to advocating for non-violent civil disobedience in protest against injustices toward African American people; he was recruited by Cara McClure, who was familiar with some of his activism.

"I've been part of BLM [since 2016], before the water crisis [in Flint], but that is a reason why I fight," Hall said. "Issues like that ... encourage and inspire my activism."

GIANT FOOTSTEPS

Hall has always identified himself as a

helper. His mentor, the late Dr. Arthur J. Pointer, was a strong community-oriented pastor in Flint and an inspiration for the young Hall.

"I didn't realize until much later the impact the Rev. Pointer had on my life," Hall said. "As a child, I admired him, so my dream job was to be a preacher."

In the early 1980s, Flint was one of the poorest communities in the nation. Hall said he and his peers glorified gangs and gangster rap music and went as far as to form a community gang — but the Rev. Pointer, along with community elders and family members, broke up the gang and connected the boys with a mentoring group.

"In my later years, I found out how politically connected he was and his involvement with forming an AIDS outreach program in the church," Hall remembered. "I would say this, I'm following the footsteps of a giant. I'm a preacher, I'm politically strong, and I've worked to combat [human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)] and AIDS. The sky is the limit. Through serving God first and community, all things are possible."

Hall himself has been a minister since 2000 at Peace Missionary Baptist Church in the Pratt City neighborhood. It was divine inspiration, he said.

"Through my involvement with church, through building a relationship with Christ, I discovered that I had a unique calling on my life, and I followed that calling," he said.

Along with Rev. Pointer as a role model, Hall also points to his mother, Rosetta Hall.



"She is the epitome of a servant leader," he said. "She had an incomparable work ethic and love for [her] community."

"My mother sacrificed to provide for her children. It's from her that I learned my work ethic, ... [as well as] how to be resilient."

Hall's mother worked her entire adult life for minimum wage. In the early 1990s, she earned approximately \$4 an hour; when she retired around 2011, she got up to \$7.15 or \$7.25 an hour.

"She literally only earned a dollar

increase for every 10 years that she worked," Hall said. "Those are some of the changes we have to begin to look at ... and begin to address."

'A SCARY TIME'

When Hall was 9 years old, his mother moved the family of five (he has three brothers and one sister) back to her hometown of Birmingham. That was in 1991.

"It was really a scary time, now that I think about it," Hall said. "I think about all the horrible policing practices [I witnessed] as a child, and that's what I really see in my head — images of what we called the 'Jump Out Boys,' ... [police] literally going after every male figure in my community; even if guys were just standing outside, hanging out, [they] seemed suspect. The bad memory just stuck in my head."

Those experiences skewed Hall's perspective of police officers, he acknowledged, adding that he's always been fearful of the police. Like many young Black men in the community, Hall ran at the sight of the police.

"I honestly was terrified of the police," he said. "That's a common trigger a lot of people have, even when they get older. If someone is driving and the police get behind [them], ... the person automatically just gets really nervous and jittery."

A lot of that fear came back approximately three or four years ago, when the

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COVER STORY

BLM

CONTINUED from PAGE 12

from the Central Pratt community in west Birmingham, where he lived and served as a neighborhood officer.

The national BLM organization began as a rallying cry in 2013, following the acquittal of George Zimmerman on second-degree murder and manslaughter charges in the killing of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida. In February 2012, Zimmerman, then a neighborhood watchman, followed, shot, and killed the unarmed Martin during a physical altercation between the two. BLM — founded by Opal Tometi, Alicia Garza, and Patrisse Cullors — evolved into a hashtag, a movement, and an organization to advocate for nonviolent civil disobedience in protests against incidents of injustice and police brutality against African Americans.

A group was started in Birmingham but disbanded. Eventually, McClure, who was part of the original group, re-established the local chapter: “We needed one that was connected to the women who started it all,” she said, adding that she contacted Hall and Milton, as well as Martez Files, who this year founded his own group, When We Fight.

“I had been seeing [Hall] on social media speaking out about different things,” McClure said. “I also saw [Milton on Facebook] asking a question about how to join, so I went to her page, looked her up, and saw that this was somebody I would like to work with.”

McClure went from being a housewife and business owner of ASAP Apartment Locators, which helps individuals and families find their ideal homes, to a community activist and organizer in a few weeks — something that “gradually happened without me noticing,” she said.

‘CAPTURED MY ATTENTION’

McClure really embarked on her activism efforts after her then-19-year-old son said to her the day Zimmerman was acquitted, “Mom, your generation dropped the ball.”

“That captured my attention,” she recalled. “I started imagining a different world, ... where my son, [Brandon McClure, now 26], could go out and not worry about being profiled by police. ... I just wanted to see a different world, especially in a city that is 74 percent Black. ... After listening [to news coverage of Zimmerman’s acquittal] for more than an hour, ... I was in tears, and I said, ‘When I come home [from visiting Memphis, Tennessee], we can find a protest to go to.’”

Her son’s words also took her back to the years 2008 through 2011, when McClure and her son were homeless in Atlanta, Georgia, sleeping on floors because she was separated from her spouse.

“I remember one night sleeping on this lady’s floor, just crying out and asking God to make me a difference maker,” she said. “I didn’t know what form that was going to take, but years later I was presented with the opportunity to actually do that.”

McClure and her son found a flyer advertising a protest being held for Martin in Birmingham on Highway 280, which she and her son attended in December 2014. Soon thereafter, activism became her life. Where she once focused on her family — being a mom and wife, making an income — she turned to putting her all into BLM.

“I felt conflicted when selling and focusing on luxury apartments,” McClure said. “I felt like, in order for me to really be in this [activism] space and really be authentic, I needed to just step away a little bit, ... to learn about what was happening in the



Cara McClure, co-founder, Black Lives Matter Birmingham. (AMARR CROSKY, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES)

“I felt conflicted when selling and focusing on luxury apartments. I felt like, in order for me to really be in this [activism] space and really be authentic, I needed to just step away a little bit, ... to learn about what was happening in the world ... [related to] racial injustice, the criminal justice system, [things] I wasn’t paying attention to [before].” **CARA MCCLURE**

world ... [related to] racial injustice, the criminal justice system, [things] I wasn’t paying attention to [before].”

How serious was McClure about activism?

She and her husband had been separated in Atlanta but divorced after her increased role with BLM because “he just couldn’t take that lifestyle anymore — me going to jail, me always inviting folks over for meetings,” she said.

“There was so much demand, and this new demand on me wasn’t generating income or generating happiness or joy,” McClure added. “I was in the house angry all the time or in tears or just wanting to watch ... what was happening ... in the country or watching protests all the time because ... I was trying to get into my BLM role.”

McClure’s work included more than BLM. She also helped launch Showing Up for

Racial Justice Birmingham, a group dedicated to community organizing, mobilizing, and education; “Black Mamas Bail Out Day” in Birmingham, which raised money to help bail out incarcerated Black mothers and help reunite them with their children and families ahead of Mother’s Day; and Faith and Works, a statewide civic engagement collective.

HELD AT GUNPOINT

All of McClure’s community work aligned with what Milton saw as part of her mission. Milton is not only a co-founder of BLM Birmingham but also one of the people the organization was founded to protect.

While visiting home from college at University of Alabama, she and her brother were home alone. Her brother went to a neighbor’s house, and when he crossed the grass on his way back to their home, someone called the police thinking he was an intruder.

When the police arrived, they held Milton at gunpoint.

At the time of the incident, she said she didn’t believe she had the power to say anything or even had the right to be enraged.

“That was something I experienced personally, but I never said anything ... because I didn’t understand how to process it and what to do to get anything done about it,” said Milton.

Although she was born in New York, Milton was familiar with Birmingham; she and her four siblings were moved to the city by her grandparents when she was in first grade. They lived in College Hills and then moved to Roebuck when she was in seventh grade.

She would soon find her voice as both an activist and an attorney. Milton earned a bachelor’s degree in social work in 2012, a master’s degree in social work in 2019, and a Juris Doctor degree in 2019 from University of Alabama; she also was awarded the prestigious Equal Justice Works Fellowship to protect the rights of children with disabilities in the Black Belt.

During Milton’s first year in law school, Philando Castile, a 32-year-old Black man was fatally shot by a police officer during a traffic stop in St. Paul, Minnesota, while his partner and four-year-old daughter were in the vehicle watching. Also, in that same year Alton Sterling, a 37-year-old Black man, was shot dead by two police officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

“There was something about the Philando Castile video that just reminded me of my own experience,” Milton said. “I wouldn’t say I have a trauma connection, ... but there was something about that summer and me just needing to stop talking and do something.”

Milton contacted the BLM Birmingham chapter on Facebook, and the rest is history.

“I always wanted to do work related to ... how to use the legal system,” she said. “I was a social worker, as well, wanting to talk about the way trauma affects people and wanting it to just stop because I felt like I had this one experience but I had to relive it all the time. I was tired of it, of having to relive the same thing I went through over and over again every few months.”

CONTINUOUS POLICE SHOOTINGS

McClure knew about Hall and his work within the community. He was a neighborhood officer; president of the Central Pratt Neighborhood Association; on staff with Jefferson County AIDS in Minorities Inc.; a candidate for Birmingham City Council, which he ran for unsuccessfully in 2013. But protests during the Trayvon Martin era strengthened Hall’s fight against racial injustice.

“After the killings of Martin and Tamir Rice, [a 12-year-old carrying a toy gun who was shot and killed by a police officer in Cleveland, Ohio], I thought that by now, at this point, years later, we would have come up with a system that works, that we wouldn’t be dealing with continuous police shootings, that we would call for policy change and maybe get those wins, and that was probably going to be it,” he said. “Unfortunately, Black [people] kept being killed by police. Even though we would take moments or breaks, as soon as it would happen again, we would find ourselves being called to the forefront to address these issues all over again.”

The second of two parts — in the Thursday, July 16, edition of The Birmingham Times and online — will feature some local activists whose mission is to create an inclusive, socially-just community and ensure that Black lives matter.

COVER STORY

HOW BLM BIRMINGHAM PLANS TO GROW STATEWIDE

BY AMEERA STEWARD

For the Birmingham Times

Upcoming goals for BLM Birmingham include work on a people's budget, a participatory budget for the city that can be expanded across the state, said members of the organization.

Cara McClure, co-founder, said the group would like to become the "gatekeeper, per se, of BLM Alabama, creating chapters in every city, ... basically to continue doing the work, leading the activist community, and making sure we provide training, such as direct action training."

Jilisa Milton, co-founder, said she would like to devote more attention to political education: "I think people — and when I say 'people,' ... I mean the everyday person — need to have these conversations I'm seeing on my social media. I'm saying there's something missing in what people are connecting to this moment in 2020. ... In order for a progressive movement to continue, we have to participate in discussions with our community."

Eric Hall, co-founder, added that they plan to have critical conversations around race and racism, as well as engage in discussions with movement elders, particularly those involved with the Civil Rights Movement, and movement youth.

"This conversation is going to be centered around hope and healing, moving forward toward solutions," Hall said. "We envision a panel of leaders ... who were

"I think people — and when I say 'people,' ... I mean the everyday person — need to have these conversations I'm seeing on my social media. I'm saying there's something missing in what people are connecting to this moment in 2020." **JILISA MILTON**

role models in the movement at Miles College, [for instance], and connecting them with some of the students there currently.

"[We would like to support] a conversation with some of the students there, as far as what they can do today to prepare the movement, ... to kind of share some of the information from the old blueprint, maybe utilize some of it, and build on that to make it relevant to the youth in this modern-day movement."

Hall added that BLM is a place where all Black people can come together.

"Whether you're Black and trans, Black and disabled, queer, whatever, ... [it's] an organization that a lot of Black youth have felt connected to," he said. "They've felt like they weren't being judged, ... like they didn't necessarily have to show up in a suit and a tie to fight for their humanity. We embrace that, and that's why this movement continues to go as strong as it is—we're not held to respectability politics; we're held to a higher standard."



Jilisa Milton, co-founder, Black Lives Matter Birmingham. (AMARR CROSKY, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES)

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PROTESTS ONGOING



Protests, marches, and silent vigils have been a daily occurrence in the Birmingham area since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

(TIMES FILE PHOTOS)

COVER STORY

HALL

CONTINUED from PAGE 13

Birmingham Violence Reduction Initiative (BVRI) started. Hall was driving in his community of Pratt City, when he saw alarmed residents watch camouflage-clad police officers in army-style vehicles raid a street without warning. BLM met with community members and elected officials who represented the area.

"It was an opportunity for those in elected positions to hear the voices and concerns of the community," he said.

COMMUNITY WORK

Hall's community work goes beyond racial injustice. In 2006, he started street outreach with Jefferson County AIDS in Minorities Inc., an HIV and AIDS service organization.

"That was the first job where I was responsible for providing community education to the homeless population and to underserved and underdeveloped communities throughout the Birmingham metropolitan area," Hall said.

In 2011, he was also responsible for helping individuals find housing and rebuild their lives after the devastating tornadoes that struck the area that year. Hall was concerned about the way federal and state dollars were being spent in the aftermath and decided in 2013 to run for the Birmingham City Council District 9 seat.

"I was very new in politics, ... so I didn't know how to fundraise, didn't know how to really do a lot of things. I just knew I had a passion for it and wanted to see something change," he said.



Eric Hall, co-founder, Black Lives Matter Birmingham. (AMARR CROSKEY, FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES)

Hall finished third in the race — but remembers it as "a year of change" for him.

"After canvassing District 9 and hearing from residents it was clear that residents wanted a representative compassionate about their concerns also educated enough to understand government, legislative pro-

cesses and policies."

He decided to enroll at Miles College where he educated a long list of notable Birmingham leaders including the Honorable U.W. Clemon and former mayors Richard Arrington, Bernard Kincaid and William Bell. "Miles College has a rich legacy of social activism and continues to be on the forefront of fighting for social justice and equity," said Hall, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2018 and is now a graduate student studying social work at Alabama Agriculture and Mechanical University.

As for politics, Hall plans to run for City Council again in 2021.

"It's not about me," he said. "I'm running because ... I envision a Birmingham that can really be beautiful out of all of the [systemic injustice, racial inequities, and inequitable communities and services]. ... We can change policies, we can change systems so they are more inclusive and not exclusive, so those systems can work for all people."

"I see an opportunity for a change, and I believe it's possible that we can build off this momentum to make that happen."

BLM BIRMINGHAM

In 2016, Hall was recruited for the BLM Birmingham chapter by Cara McClure, a member of the original local chapter.

"At the time, I just wanted to be part of an organization that ... I deemed to be relevant in this moment," Hall said, adding that he didn't imagine having to continue the work for so long.

"After the killings of Trayvon Martin, [an unarmed 17-year-old shot and killed by a neighborhood watchman in Sanford, Florida], and Tamir Rice, [a 12-year-old

carrying a toy gun who was shot and killed by a police officer in Cleveland, Ohio], I thought that by now, at this point, years later, we would have come up with a system that works, that we wouldn't be dealing with continuous police shootings, that we would call for policy change and maybe get those wins, and that was probably going to be it," he said.

"Unfortunately, Black [people] kept being killed by police. Even though we would take moments or breaks, as soon as it would happen again, we would find ourselves being called to the forefront to address these issues all over again."

So many of the demands and recommendations activists are making now are the same ones made when Martin was killed, Hall said: "We've grown tired, so we're a little more aggressive now than we were these past years. We're really pushing now."

"I see with this movement that young people are literally leading," he said. "A lot of our youth are on the front lines; children are now engaged and involved. ... [Young people] want immediate change, so I'm excited about the rebirth of this movement."

As former president of the Central Pratt Neighborhood Association, many of Hall's concerns deal with communities.

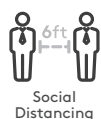
"My thing is we need to find a way to return power back to the people and allow the people to have a stronger voice in policies as it relates to their city," said Hall, who is dedicated seeing that change is made beyond Birmingham, too. "[Alabama should be] somewhere we all can live and also thrive. We're not fighting for equality but equity. Until we see that, my commitment is going to be to [make] sure that the policies reflect that Black Lives Matter."



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ENTERTAINMENT

MISTY COPELAND MADE AMERICAN BALLET HISTORY

BY J.R. GAMBLE
The Shadow League

In July of 2015, Misty Copeland became a living legend in the world of ballet and similar to Barack Obama rising to the presidency, possessed a drive and audacity that superseded the deepest systemic racism.

Let's put her into perspective. She's a Black world class ballerina with her own Barbie Doll. It doesn't get any more transcending than that.

She overcame incredible odds as a Black girl who started ballet at 13 (10 years later than most of her peers) and then worked her way up to becoming the first African-American principal dancer in the history of the lauded ballet company.

Copeland continues to inspire millions, embracing her standing as a barrier-basher, a Black Goddess in a white world of professional ballet.

"I was aware that I was black, but I wasn't aware of the deep-rooted history of the lack of diversity, the lack of African-Americans in top companies," Copeland told Today host Willie Geist in 2016. "It was like, it hasn't happened for 75 years. Why would it happen to me? And then, at the same time, it gave me even more of this fire that was like, 'I am carrying so many people with me and I can do this.'"

The Shadow League story on Misty Copeland's historical accomplishment (July 1, 2015):

Another barrier has just been smashed, this time in ballet.

American ballerina Misty Copeland, a long-time distinguished dancer and star of Under Armour's "I Will What I Want" cam-



Misty Copeland started ballet at 13 and then worked her way up to becoming the first African-American principal dancer in the history of the lauded ballet company.
(PROVIDED PHOTO)

paign, has been promoted to principal dancer, the highest rank of the American Ballet Theatre. With this promotion, she becomes the first African-American female dancer to achieve that position in the company's 75-year history.

The ABT announced many promotions on Tuesday, but this is by far the most significant one of them all, eliminating another barrier for dancers of color.

Now 32, Copeland joined the company fourteen years ago in 2001, becoming a soloist in 2007. One of her primary goals was to become the first black woman to be named a principal dancer at the company.

"My fears are that it could be another two

decades before another black woman is in the position that I hold with an elite ballet company," she wrote in her memoir, "Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina," published in 2014. "That if I don't rise to principal, people will feel I have failed them."

Copeland took that goal, and responsibility to heart, garnering more attention and praise for her accomplishments, skill and dreams. Despite the criticisms- she didn't have the right skin color, she didn't have the right body type, she was too curvy, too muscular- she persevered and succeeded, eventually being named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people last year and earning a spot as one of the five covers

for the issue. Her fame continued to grow and so did her fan base, the New York Times stating "her performances became events, drawing large, diverse, enthusiastic crowds to cheer her on."

Her career parallels that of another trailblazer in a sport not traditionally thought of for Black athletes, Serena Williams and tennis. Her training, performance, skill and records speak to their greatness, and their acceptance as pioneers in their respective careers is something they take very seriously and to heart.

It's no wonder she was the first African-American dancer to secure the lead role in ABT's production of "Swan Lake, and fans were not the only ones who took notice and began to flock to see her perform.

Brands like Under Armour recognized her talent, impact, significance and position. The company featured her as one of the primary faces in their "I Will What I Want" campaign, generating over four million views on YouTube- in one week!

Under Armour gave their star a big congratulations through Twitter on Tuesday to celebrate the announcement:

The announcement was also posted to her Instagram account, where you can see the emotion permeate through her face when the news was revealed.

"Misty Copeland is a role model to many and with this latest news, her status, reputation and responsibilities have become even bigger. But after an almost 20-year career in the field, Misty is more than capable of handling the expanded responsibility of being recognized as the first African-American female principal dancer for the American Ballet Theater. Congratulations to you Misty!"

How Guy's 'New Jack Swing' left impact on music

BY RHETT BUTLER
The Shadow League

It's summertime, and if you're like me, a little sunshine and a tight hug of humidity bring back memories from times past along with a reminiscence of '90s era R&B, which always feels like a summertime groove. No other group put that young meets grown and sexy energy together quite like the seminal New Jack Swing group, Guy.

Helmed by musical master and producer extraordinaire Teddy Riley, Guy was a confluence of street-wise sophistication and romantic intuition. Childhood friends Riley and Timmy Gatling brought their Harlem roots to melodious syncopation and with the addition of crooner, Aaron Hall, the cipher was complete.

The group would sign to a powerhouse record company at the time, Uptown Records, which was responsible for acts like Heavy D and Mary J. Blige.

Their 1988 self-titled debut album, Guy, took a different approach to commercial success. Five singles were released which each having no real heavy commercial impact, however, the album was able to secure double platinum status.

Songs like "Groove Me", "Teddys Jam", "Piece of My Love" and "I Like", were all big on the Billboard R&B charts but didn't make the Hot 100 list of pop charts.

Still, the album is considered a classic and



Helmed by musical master and producer extraordinaire Teddy Riley, Guy was a confluence of street-wise sophistication and romantic intuition. Childhood friends Riley and Timmy Gatling brought their Harlem roots to melodious syncopation and with the addition of crooner, Aaron Hall, the cipher was complete. (PROVIDED PHOTO)

defined the drug-soaked era of flashy hustlers and urban playboys.

Shortly after recording their debut album, Gatling left the group and was replaced by Damion Hall, younger brother of lead singer Aaron. In 1990 they released their second album, "The Future", which really cemented them as leaders of the New Jack Swing sound. Singles like "Wanna Get Wit You" and "Let's Chill" were bookends to

a brash yet sultry presentation to black love.

They really defined the angst in urban dating through the masculine perception of how to approach and maintain a young relationship. The testosterone-filled odes that secretly wished to be love ballads were infectious and defined an entire generation's outlook on love.

Guy also gave us the title track to the film "New Jack City", performing it in a scene in

the movie which forever memorialized the way the club used to be, replete with synchronized dance moves where the tone was all fun and less svelte.

Unfortunately, the group disbanded after a while with Riley moving his base of operations to Virginia Beach and forming the successful group Blackstreet. The Hall brothers each pursued solo careers with Aaron Hall being the more successful of the two.

Still, Guy gets together from time to time to perform at nostalgic concerts that are now affectionately labeled as old-school. Riley continues to get his props and be remembered as an icon. His COVID-19 quarantine-inspired Verzuz battle with Baby Face (Parts 1 and The Do-over) introduced him to a new set of Instagram fans and solidified his legacy as one of music's all-time masters of production.

No one will ever be able to erase the genie in a bottle effect the trio captured during a pivotal time in late '80s and early '90s.

Teddy Riley is truly the pre-Q-Tip, Pharrell and Kanye West, crafting a style and sound that would define an entire generation and force the music world to conform to the style of the youth saddled in the crack cocaine era.

TheShadowLeague.com, a site dedicated to presenting journalistically sound sports coverage with a cultural perspective that insightfully informs sports fans worldwide.

TODAY

READ THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES. Get all the latest news! COMEDIAN MARIO TORY at the StarDome Comedy Club.

FRIDAY

COMEDIAN JAMES GREGORY at the StarDome Comedy Club.

MOVIE NIGHT: Check out some old, but good flicks/movies and show on a sheet in the backyard for the young and young at heart. Fun in the outdoors... any day!

SATURDAY

BOOK SIGNING – Dzure and the Vault Bar & Lounge is hosting a book signing 'THE FOURTH WIFE' by local author MEME WILLIAMS, 4-8 p.m. at the Vault Bar and Lounge.

COMEDIAN JAMES GREGORY at the StarDome Comedy Club. FUN, GAMES, YARD AND HOUSE WORK including Uno, Monopoly, Solitaire. Weeding the pretty flowers in the beds, cutting the grass, cleaning the grill or just sitting outside if the weather permits. Things are changing soon.

SUNDAY

COMEDIAN JAMES GREGORY at the StarDome Comedy Club.

FAMILY TIME AND GOOD FOOD. Grilling in the backyard, movies in the backyard, parties in the backyard.

MONDAY

PLANNING AND MORE CATCH UP. Pull out that long to-do list and see what can be done during the week or weekend ahead. Making plans for the future and getting back to normal as best as you can.



Gwen DeRu
PPT
PEOPLE PLACES & THINGS

Go to www.birmingham-times.com for more weekly events.

TUESDAY

READ A GOOD BOOK... There are a few on the bookshelves, just lying around ...or you can get an e-book.

WEDNESDAY

COMEDIAN DREW THOMAS at the StarDome Comedy Club.

WEATHER WATCHING FOR THE WEEK AND WEEKEND. Looking for the weekend and thinking of what to do that depends on good weather outdoors. Getting out of the house even if going nowhere.... Take a walk if the weather is good.

NEXT THURSDAY

READ THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES. Catch up on the news!

COMEDIAN DREW THOMAS at the StarDome Comedy Club.

NEXT FRIDAY

MOVIE NIGHT: Rent and

Watch movies at Sidewalkfest.com.

COMEDIAN BRUCE BRUCE at the StarDome Comedy Club.

THINGS TO DO

VACATIONS WITH BOOKS AND VIRTUAL TRIPS.... When you need to get away from 'whatever', the best way is with a good book. Well, maybe the next thing to being there in the person. Many families are eager to get out of the house and hit the road for a summer trip. Make your summer travel plans safe and successful.

FOR BOOK LOVERS

Here are a couple of books to read anytime, after washing your hands, before the news reports, during your down time or just to keep boredom away (with so much going on).

BOOK SIGNING: THE FOURTH WIFE – Dzure and the Vault will present a book signing, Saturday,

4-8 p.m. at the Vault Bar and Lounge. The book 'The Fourth Wife' written by MEME WILLIAMS is a memoir that leads one to imagine meeting the love of your life and everything is going great, until it's too late. Finding yourself trapped into a marriage you can't seem to get out of. From lies and turmoil to triumph, MeMe found a way out to find her true self. Discover the powerful story about the dangers of a narcissistic relationship. MeMe is a mother, an entrepreneur, business owner and author. She is a published model and is well versed in the entertainment industry. MeMe loves giving back to her community and helping people. In her spare time, she loves spending time with her family and friends, exotic vacations and going to the beach.

BOOK: GIRL IN THE MIRROR – The Book 'Girl in the Mirror- Three Generations of Black Women in Motion' written by NATASHA TARPLEY is a memoir that traces her grandparents' move from Alabama to Chicago, her mother's relocation to Boston after her father's death and her own trip to Africa and back. From runaway slaves to the Great Migration, Black people have uprooted themselves in search of a better life. Migration has also meant loss, rootlessness, and separation from family, disconnection from ancestors and the past. Tarpley emerges in the lives, struggles and loves of those Black people who have traveled the road before her. The book offers a hopeful vision of how one can use the past to move forward.

FOR TRAVELERS OF ALL KIND

VIRTUAL TRIPS – Travel online - A virtual trip can be a great way to explore destinations you might consider for a future vacation, or it may be a chance to see remarkable sights around the world that you wouldn't get to experience otherwise.

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDEN VIRTUAL TOUR – Explore the Japanese Gardes at www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRC3m1AsMig&feature=youtu.be. For more, go to www.bbgsd.com.

FOR BUSINESS LOVERS

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK July 13 – 17 – Monday kicks off a week of workshops for small

businesses – MONDAY (REV & Reginald Smith) – IDEATION WORKSHOP: Innovating Your Business for Future Growth, TUESDAY (Birmingham Biz Hub & Blackstd) – CIRCLE MAKER: How to Build Meaningful Collaboration & Engagement Amongst Entrepreneurs, WEDNESDAY (Black Girl Venture & Birmingham Improv Theatre) – SO YOU THINK YOU CAN PITCH?: How to Effectively Present and Share Your Business Utilizing Improv Techniques. THURSDAY (Tate & Associates LLC & Iseek Solutions) – HOW TO SCALE: Systems and Processes for Success and FRIDAY (Uphill Consulting & Ace Graham of Alchemy) – COMMUNITY X CULTURE X CUSTOMER SERVICE: The Art of Customer Service Growing & Maintaining An Inclusive Customer Base. REV kicks off these noon events daily. FREE. Register at <https://oed.birminghamal.gov>.

FOR THE COMMUNITY

BIRMINGHAM INITIATIVES – Here are a couple of initiatives that are taking place supporting the Birmingham community. Visit the links and learn how you can contribute, support or volunteer in the efforts. *To support Black and locally owned businesses in Birmingham, visit www.wokevote.us/ restore. *Join the community in supporting Mayor Randall Woodfin and the City of Birmingham to re-envision a new monument in Linn Park - one that represents a vision for an inclusive future. Donate today to be a part of something monumental. www.gofundme.com/f/monumentalbhm.

JOB SEEKERS - Looking for a job... *GOOD JOB is a site for job seekers looking for employment match up. *YVCA is a site for job seekers looking for employment. *SERVISFIRST BANK is a site. *ALABAMA SAWYER is a site. *HALF SHELL OYSTER HOUSE is a site. *HINKLE METALS AND SUPPLY is a site. *EBSCO is a site.

COVID-19 TESTING SITES ...

ONGOING - *LEGION FIELD: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL 205-92-COVID (205-922-6843) ... *UAB Downtown Testing Site: TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL (205)-975-1881 (2117 University Blvd South, 35205) ... *Cahaba Medical Care, West

End Clinic: TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL (205)-679-6325 or visit cahabamedicalcare.com (1308 Tuscaloosa Avenue)

FOR LOVERS OF FOOD

FARMERS TO FAMILIES FREE PRODUCE WEDNESDAYS – Avondale Samaritan Place, 3829 5th Avenue South is offering FREE fresh produce to families through July 22 starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays.

FOOD AND FARM FORUM -The 2020 Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network (ASAN) Forum is scheduled for December 10-12 at Camp Beckwith in Fairhope, Alabama. There is a Youth Food and Farm Forum, as well. Sessions are 50 minutes or two hours in length, and can be anything from a panel discussion to hands-on demo, roundtable discussion to a traditional presentation. Categories for topics include: Farming (Beginning and Advanced levels), Farm Business / Marketing, Community Food Systems / Food Movement, and "Green Living". Submit your proposal at : <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2foAVJCN2dLUQAGHNzBYulqMc09x-CPp6WqQC-I-7xP-YQ/viewform>. ASAN is a grassroots network of producers and supporters of locally, ecologically, and ethically raised food from throughout Alabama.

FOR ART LOVERS

SUMMER ART CAMPS – Space One Eleven registration is open for students in rising grades 2 – 12. *GRADES 2-5 – July 13-17, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. *GRADES 6-12 – NOW, June 22 – 26 and July 6-10, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The camps are a great way for young artists to learn a new art form and improve their art skills. Families may qualify for FREE or REDUCED tuition. To register, visit www.spaceoneeleven.org/summer-art-camp-registration.

Well, that's it. Tell you more 'next' time.

People, Places and Things by Gwen DeRu is a weekly column. Send comments to my emails: thelewisgroup@birminghamtimes.com and gwenduru@yahoo.com.

KANYE WEST? TIM MCGRAW? REESE WITHERSPOON? ALL GOT PPP LOANS

AP Wire Report

WASHINGTON — The government's small business lending program has benefited millions of companies, with the goal of minimizing the number of layoffs Americans have suffered in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. Yet the recipients include many you probably wouldn't have expected.

Clothing lines by Kanye West and Reese Witherspoon. The company that sells the "Rich Dad, Poor Dad" series of books by personal finance guru Robert Kiyosaki. Law firms and high-dollar hedge funds. Political groups on both the left and right.

All told, the Treasury Department's Paycheck Protection Program authorized \$520 billion for nearly 5 million mostly small businesses and nonprofits. On Monday, the government released the names and some other details of recipients who were approved for \$150,000 or more.

That amounted to fewer than 15% of all borrowers. The Associated Press and other news organizations are suing the government to obtain the names of the remaining recipients. Here are a few unlikely recipients of the PPP loans:

TIM MCGRAW AND FAITH HILL?

A Nashville company called "Road Dog Touring, Inc." was approved for a small business loan of \$2 million to \$5 million. The company owns the official website for country singer Tim McGraw, timmccgraw.com, and a joint official site with his wife, Faith Hill, timandfaith.com. A message inquiring about the relationship between Road Dog and the two stars has not been returned.

The company said the loan would support 37 jobs, according to the data released by Treasury.

JEFF KOONS

Koons, a modernist sculptor, is known best for his work with large, metallic balloon-like animals. His "Rabbit" sculpture fetched \$91 million at auction last year. Koons' studio was approved for \$1 million to \$2 million, the government's data shows.

KANYE WEST, KHLOE KARDASHIAN, REESE WITHERSPOON

Kanye West's clothing-and-sneaker brand Yeezy received a loan of between \$2 million and \$5 million, according to the data released by Treasury. The company employed 106 people in mid-February before the pandemic struck.

Yeezy, best known for its \$250 sneakers, just announced a major deal with Gap that will have the rap superstar designing hoodies and T-shirts to be sold in the chain's 1,100 stores around the world. (A representative for Yeezy didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.)

Last weekend, West, a notable fan of President Donald Trump, tweeted that he was running for president.

Good American, the jeans and activewear line of Khloe Kardashian and her business partner Emma Grede, got a loan of between \$1 million and \$2 million dollars and had 57 jobs retained through the downturn.

And Reese Witherspoon's Southern-themed clothing brand Draper James received between \$350,000 and \$1 million under the fund, helping it to keep 44 people employed.

the GARY RICHARDSON MORNING SHOW WEEKDAYS 6-9

"Birmingham's Longest Running Talk Program"



BOB DYLAN RECORDS 'BLOWIN' IN THE WIND': "This here ain't no protest song or anything like that, 'cause I don't write no protest songs." That was how Bob Dylan introduced one of the most eloquent protest songs ever written when he first performed it publicly. It was the spring of his first full year in New York City, and he was onstage at Gerde's Folk City in Greenwich Village, talking about a song he claims to have written in just 10 minutes: "Blowin' In The Wind." A few weeks later, on July 9, 1962, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star. Dylan's recording of "Blowin' In The Wind" would first be released a full year later.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18				19				20	21			
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33					34				35			
36				37				38				
			39				40					
41	42	43					44		45	46	47	48
49				50	51	52			53			
54				55					56			
57				58					59			

1. In this way
5. Appealed
9. Cooking fuel
12. Monthly expense
13. Take to the trail
14. Have being
15. Nurse's ____
16. Unzip
17. Neckline shape
18. On time
20. Say
22. Derby or coaster
25. Rice field
29. Kind of spray can
33. Cake decorator
34. Hot-chocolate cup
35. Pop
36. It starts on January 1
38. Did embroidery
39. Hire
41. Jeweled crown
44. Cyclist's headgear
49. Move like a rabbit
50. Deli spread
53. To ____ his own
54. Enjoyed brunch
55. Former spouses
56. Feel great pity
57. Crumple
58. Allowed to be used
59. Bright sign

1. Golf hazard
2. Offspring
3. Loosen
4. Originate
5. Snapshot
6. Mouth edge
7. ____ out (make do)
8. Thicker
9. Handed over
10. Field of study
11. Look for
19. Meddle
21. Narrative writing
23. Actress Dern
24. Relay section
25. Safety ____
26. Highest card
27. Morning droplets
28. Laundry machine
30. Miss Piggy, e.g.
31. "____ to Joy"
32. Small boy
34. Periodical
37. Nail polish
38. Realize
40. Casper, e.g.
41. Defrost
42. Minute amount
43. Acted like
45. Slant
46. Nutmeglike spice
47. Sound return
48. "____ Came Bronson"
51. Bunyan's tool
52. Strong desire

ARIES: You'll be responsible for an event that brings people together. Working as part of a team will help you be more productive. You'll need to devote a lot of attention to your friends this week.

TAURUS: Make this summer a season of achievements. Start a new project or take your career in a new direction. Now is an ideal time to launch your own business.

GEMINI: Hurry up and plan a vacation if you haven't already. Take the time to create an itinerary so you can make the most of the experience. It'll be an opportunity for discovery and happiness.

CANCER: You need to make significant changes to your surroundings, which makes you feel like you're on an emotional roller coaster. While it might be stressful, taking on a large project will inspire you.

LEO: You'll finally reach an understanding with someone at work or in your personal life. You'll be in an ideal position to request a loan or finalize an agreement.

VIRGO: Work will require your full attention. A lot of details need to be considered. Take your time and be meticulous to ensure things get done properly.

LIBRA: You'll be asked to take the reins on a particular project. It'll be demanding, but the experience will improve your self-esteem and give you more confidence.

SCORPIO: Whether you're on vacation or at home, you'll need to spend most of the week indoors. Family matters will require your attention, and your body may need time to rest.

SAGITTARIUS: You'll have trouble getting in touch with some people, and you may need to wait a while for them to return your calls. Even if the situation is urgent, you need to be patient.

CAPRICORN: You may need to review your financial situation and reassess your budget. Carefully review your receipts as a mistake may have been overlooked. Doing so could result in considerable savings.

AQUARIUS: You'll feel like you can conquer the world this week. You'll find the motivation to improve your circumstances and experience a new beginning of sorts.

PISCES: You'll need to start this week by thinking before you act. Large projects will require more consideration. Once you get moving, you're sure to find the answers you're looking for.

HOW TO PLAY: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once. Each 3 x 3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3 x 3 box.

6							5	2
			4		2	7		
			3					
	3		9					6
		1	8				2	9
	6			1				
							1	7
3			1	4				
4		2		8				



T	H	U	S		P	L	E	D	G	A	S
R	E	N	T		H	I	K	E	A	R	E
A	I	D	E		O	P	E	N	V	E	E
P	R	O	M	P	T		S	P	E	A	K
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I	C	E	R		M	U	G		S	O	D
N	E	W		E	A	R		S	E	W	E
					E	N	G	A	G	E	
T	I	A	R	A		H	E		L	M	E
H	O	P		M	A	Y	O		E	A	C
A	T	E		E	X	E	S		A	C	H
W	A	D			L	E	N	T		N	E

6	8	4	7	9	1	3	5	2
9	5	3	4	6	2	7	8	1
1	2	7	3	5	8	6	9	4
2	3	8	9	7	5	1	4	6
7	4	1	8	3	6	5	2	9
5	6	9	2	1	4	8	7	3
8	9	6	5	2	3	4	1	7
3	7	5	1	4	9	2	6	8
4	1	2	6	8	7	9	3	5

OPINION

Symbols, statues, and substance

Socially isolated and alone in my home, I lifted my fist into the air when I learned that the Mississippi legislature voted to remove the Confederate stars and bars from their flag. As NACCP President Derrick Jackson said, “it’s been a long time coming.” A long time since the songstress Nina Simone put it out there with “Mississippi G—damn.” A long time since Emmitt Till was massacred for “reckless eyeballing.” A long time since James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were murdered. It’s been a long time coming, but has Mississippi changed?

I’m an economist, so I have to go with the data. Mississippi is the most impoverished state in our nation. It also has the highest percentage of African Americans — 37 percent. Still, the state voted in a racist white woman — Cindy Hyde-Smith, who joked about lynching in the days leading up to her election. Mississippians found such jokes acceptable since they rejected Mike Espy’s candidacy for the Mississippi Senate seat that Hyde-Smith now occupies. He garnered 46 percent of the vote in what was described as the closest Senate election in Mississippi since 1988, still, his defeat speaks to the intransigence of racism in his state. Perhaps his 2020 candidacy will yield different results. From my perspective, though, it’s not the symbolic flag, but

also the substantive racial inequality in Mississippi.

So while I also cheered that the Princeton University Board of trustees finally agreed to remove the nation’s racist 28th President’s name from its public policy school, I wonder if anything else has changed at Princeton. Students have demanded a more diversified faculty and curriculum and funding for research on reparations. The name change is the first step. What is the next step?

In Virginia, Governor Ralph Northam (D) said he would remove the statue of Jefferson Davis, the traitorous President of the Confederacy from Richmond’s Monument Avenue. As soon as he announced it, there was a lawsuit challenging his decision, and the matter is headed for court. Rita Davis, the Black woman who is Northam’s legal advisor, said the statue was designed to minimize “a devastating evil.” If you walk down Monument Avenue, evil abounds. Taking the statue down is a first step for the blackface-wearing governor, but again what’s next?

Even as the winds of change are swirling, there are dinosaurs who cling tenaciously to our nation’s racist past. I do not understand why Confederate loyalists seem to have forgotten that THE CONFEDERACY LOST THE CIVIL WAR. Except to stir up his racist base, I don’t understand why a man who



BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX

The folks who are clinging to statues are clinging to a way of life where Black people are supposed to bow and scrape and accept any kind of treatment from ‘powerful’ white people. In adhering to the Confederacy and folks like Woodrow Wilson and Andrew Jackson, they are clinging to Presidents who were oppressive segregationists.

was born and raised in New York has such loyalty to the Confederacy.

On June 26, the 45th President issued an executive order “protecting monuments, memorials, and statues and combatting recent criminal violence.” The executive order is replete with combative and incendiary language, describing protesters as “rioters, arsonists, and left-wing extremists.” It uses terms like “Marxism” and “agitator” to describe those who oppose historic racism as “ignorant of history.” Because of this “ignorance” (look in the mirror, Mr. President), the executive order says the Feds will prosecute people who “destroys, damages or desecrates a monument on federal or state property,” and their “accomplices” and imposes criminal penalties of up to 10 years in jail. Really? If our nation’s founders had been held to the same specious

standards, there would be no United States of America.

The folks who are clinging to statues are clinging to a way of life where Black people are supposed to bow and scrape and accept any kind of treatment from “powerful” white people. In adhering to the Confederacy and folks like Woodrow Wilson and Andrew Jackson, they are clinging to Presidents who were oppressive segregationists. Wilson’s legacy is especially egregious as he deliberately attempted to reverse Black progress by re-segregating the civil service. Now, we have a President who would do it all again by embracing racism, retweeting a “white power” video, demonizing protesters, and using language designed to divide.

Some of the symbols of racism are being erased, albeit slowly, but little has changed about the substance of racial inequality. People should not be celebrating symbolic victories unless they are prepared to challenge structural inequality. I cringe when I walk in downtown DC, looking at signs that proclaim “Black Lives Matter,” knowing that many of these stores have exhibited racist behavior toward Black neighbors. Don’t eradicate the symbol, Mississippi, Princeton, commercial establishments, if you aren’t also willing to eliminate the substance of racial inequality.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist who can be reached at www.julianne-malveaux.com.

Anxiety and depression: Not all young people affected equally

The coronavirus pandemic has upended the American education system at all levels, and it is taking a serious toll on student mental health and well-being.

A recent survey from Active Minds, a mental health nonprofit, found that 80 percent of the high school and college students surveyed are having difficulty concentrating. Nearly half are facing financial challenges, with unemployment, financial aid and successful distance learning among the concerns of young people.

Anxiety and depression among students have become central issues, and not all young people are affected equally.

Because of the coronavirus’s disproportionate effect on Black, Latino, Native American and low-income communities, young people of color are likely to experience an uneven share of new burdens and financial pressures, as well as worry, grief and loss at home. This situation merits immediate attention and action.

According to an NPR/PBS Newshour/Marist national poll in April, 60 percent of respondents who identified as non-white said they or someone in their household lost work hours or a job due to the pandemic, compared to 43 percent of white respondents. This additional financial strain may make attending college unrealistic for many.

A Gates Foundation survey of parents in May found that for about 60 percent of Black and Latino high school students, the

Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted their post-secondary plans, compared with 43 percent of white high school students. (The Gates Foundation is among the many funders of The Hechinger Report.)

Students of color are more likely than white students to face food, housing, health-care and technology insecurity as a result of displacement. Groups representing Asian/Pacific Islander students are tracking discriminatory campus incidents aimed at this group and relating to Covid-19. These stressors have a cumulative effect on the mental well-being of students of color.

In the midst of sweeping changes in response to the pandemic, higher education institutions must prioritize the critical need to support student mental health — especially for students of color.

Institutions that value diversity and inclusion need to be aware of the circumstances and disparities experienced by students of color, and be flexible and creative in responding to such challenges.

Higher education institutions can facilitate access to tele-mental health care with special attention to culturally sensitive and trauma-informed practices. It’s also important for colleges and universities to elicit direct input from students of color when planning to address mental health concerns and promote peer engagement, which are critical in an era of social isolation.

In addition, institutions can initiate

Because of the coronavirus’s disproportionate effect on Black, Latino, Native American and low-income communities, young people of color are likely to experience an uneven share of new burdens and financial pressures, as well as worry, grief and loss at home. This situation merits immediate attention and action.

partnerships with other stakeholders, such as private-sector employers, to promote students’ successful transition to the workforce and extend needed emotional supports. For example, companies can help ensure that students have access to technology, can be flexible and creative with employment opportunities, and can provide mental health services suited to the realities of the day. In doing so, they can help maintain gains in workplace diversity and equity.

Even before the pandemic, college students of color faced unique mental health challenges. According to a 2015 national survey by the Steve Fund and The Jed Foundation, students of color are more likely than their white peers to report feeling overwhelmed during their first year of college, and yet they are half as likely to seek help from a mental-health professional. (Lumina Foundation is among the funders of the Steve Fund. It is also among the many funders of The Hechinger Report.)

These are important factors in and predictors of how well students integrate, perform and persist on college campuses. Students of color are less likely than their white counterparts to make it to the second year of college and to graduate within six years.

COVID-19 — compounded by the conflagratory social climate — has generated profound risks to the mental health of young people of color. Unaddressed, these risks threaten every dimension of their transition to a healthy and productive adulthood, including their successful completion of college.

The Steve Fund, a national organization dedicated to promoting the mental health of young people of color, has formed a multi-sector task force of thought leaders and students to develop recommendations for mitigating the mental health risks caused by this pandemic, and to stem potential damage.

Young people of color need and deserve wise investments and help in navigating the quagmire wrought by the pandemic as well as today’s inflammatory racial climate and protests for social justice.

Mental health is the foundation of well-being. This crisis is an opportunity for higher education institutions — and their partners — to respond commensurately by making student well-being an essential focus.

Annelle Primm, M.D., is senior medical director of the Steve Fund, a national organization dedicated to promoting the mental health and well-being of students of color.



BY ANNELLE PRIMM

EMPLOYMENT

SENIOR PROGRAM ANALYST

Senior Programming Analyst sought by Hibbett Sporting Goods, Inc. in Birmingham, AL. 40 hrs/wk. Duties: Analyze applications gaps; perform impact analysis of various applications/systems as a result of change and provide solution options; translate business requirements and capabilities into technical solutions in collaboration with solution analysts, architects and business partners; analyze complex data systems and document data elements, data flow relationships and dependencies; define appropriate techno-functional solution design in collaborations with architect, solutions analysts and business users; develop code, test plans, expected results, and test data at a program level; review requirement documents and approve technical specifications; coordinate and perform system testing and assist with quality assurance and user acceptance testing; interface with business users and management; self-manage production and project work activities; assist with project estimation activities; mentor programmers and senior programmers; support multiple applications areas; participate in on-call rotation; after business hours on-call availability is required. Min. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in computer information systems, mechanical engineering or related field or foreign equivalent and 7 years of experience in software development in AS400/SERIES environment using RPG/RPG ILE, CL language and SQL. Skills: 5 years of working experience with warehouse management system software e.g. MANHATTAN (PKMS/ WMI). 5 year of prior experience in a retail multi-channel organization. 3 years of Technical and functional knowledge of Merchandise management system (MMS) for system integration with Warehouse Management System. Please reply with resume to: Casey Cole, 2700 Milan Court, Birmingham, AL 35211.

BT07/09/2020

LEGALS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDDER PRE-QUALIFICATION AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO RECEIVE BIDS FROM PREQUALIFIED BIDDERS

Pre-qualification submittals will be received by UAB PM Chris Hodges on behalf of Office of the Chief Facilities Officer, UAB Health System, Sr. Assoc. Vice President, UAB Hospital, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the University of Alabama Board of Trustees at UAB Hospital Planning, 2020 University Blvd., Birmingham, AL 35294. The original and two (2) flash drives with duplicates of submittals are required for pre-qualification approval; however, email transmission copies may be transmitted to the Project Manager at cjhodges@uabmc.edu and cc'd to kmullins@pooleandcompany.com to expedite the review process with a hard-copy of the submittal and two flash drives to be delivered within 24 hours.

AOC 502 BUILDING RENOVATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
UAB PROJECT NO. # H175012

SCOPE OF WORK:

The scope of work includes interior renovation of the existing Alabama Organ Center, which includes Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Medical Gas systems. The project will be performed in an occupied space and is located on the 1st Floor of the UAB Hospital Support Building. Adjacent spaces are sensitive to noise, vibrations, and dust and will require implementation of measures to mitigate these issues. General Contractors seeking to be pre-qualified must have demonstrable knowledge and experience as a General Contractor (not as CM) with similar clinical spaces in an operating Healthcare clinical environment, and must demonstrate experience with the implementation, monitoring and management of Infection Control Measures and Interim Life Safety Measures as a General Contractor on similar projects. The UAB Hospital Support Building location is 508 20th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35210. Estimated budget is \$410,000.00

PRIME GENERAL CONTRACTOR BIDDER PRE-QUALIFICATIONS:

Prime General Contractors bidders interested in submitting a proposal must apply for pre-qualification and must be licensed under the Provision of Title 34, Chapter 8, and Code of Alabama, 1975. A copy of current Alabama Contractors license is to be included in pre-qualification submittal.

Only bidders who have completed the pre-qualification process and that have been approved will be eligible to submit a bid for the Project. Prospective Bidder's Pre-qualification Package must be received by the Owner's Project Manager no later than

2:00 pm local time on Wednesday, July 29, 2020.[SR1]

Pre-qualification Requirements Information Package may be obtained from the Architect upon letterhead request sent by email or scanned into an email to kmullins@pooleandcompany.com.

The pre-qualification procedure is intended to identify responsible and competent contractor bidders relative to the requirements of the Project. Each prospective prime contractor bidder will be notified of the results of the pre-qualification as soon as is practicable and Monday, August 10, 2020, prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.[SR2]

The Owner reserves the right to waive technical errors in applications, or abandon or extend the pre-qualification process, should the interests of the Owner appear to be promoted thereby.

Progress Design and Construction Documents:
Prior to the pre-qualification deadline, project progress plans and specifications may be examined at the following location:

Architect:
POOLE & COMPANY ARCHITECTS, LLC
2 NORTH 20TH STREET, SUITE 1610
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203
(205) 326-2206
(205) 326-2201
kmullins@pooleandcompany.com

BIDS BY PRE-QUALIFIED PRIME GENERAL CONTRACTOR BIDDERS

Documents:
Bid documents will be available on Monday, August 17, 2020 at the following [SR3] locations after notice to pre-qualified bidders is given. Drawings and specifications may be examined at the Office of the Architect: McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge, 3000 3rd Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35233; at the Construct Connect Plan Room, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092; and at the Birmingham Construction Industry Authority, 3600 Fourth Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35222.

Bonds:
A certified check or bid bond payable to the University of Alabama at Birmingham in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than \$10,000 must accompany the bidder's proposal. Performance and Statutory Labor and Material Payment Bonds will be required at the signing of the Contract.

Bids:
Bids must be submitted on proposal forms or copies thereof furnished by the Architect. No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for a period of ninety (90) days. The Owner reserves the right to reject bids if such action is determined to be in the best interest of the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to revoke pre-qualification of any bidder in accordance with Section 39-2-12, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended in 1997 (by Act 97-225). Bids will be received until Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 2:00 pm local time at the 2020 Building, 2020 8th Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35233.[SR4]

Bid proposals may be hand delivered or received by mail on the date of the bid opening at the Office of Chris Hodges, 2020 Building, 2020 University Blvd., Birmingham, Alabama 35233, until 12:00 noon. After 12:00 noon of the date of the bid opening, bid proposals must be hand delivered and presented at the bid opening. Sealed bid proposals shall be submitted in triplicate and shall be properly identified. All bid proposals received after 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 will be returned unopened.

Nonresident Prime Contractor Bidders:
Under Section 39-3-5, Code of Alabama, 1975, nonresident prime contractor bidders must accompany any written bid documents with a written opinion of an attorney licensed to practice law in such nonresident prime contractor bidder's state of domicile as to the preferences, if any or none, granted by the law of the state to its own business entities whose principal place of business are in that state in the letting of any or all public contracts. Resident prime contractors in Alabama, as defined in Section 39-2-12, are granted preference over nonresident prime contractors in awarding of contracts in the same manner and to the same extent as provided by the laws of the state of domicile of the nonresident.

Fire Alarm Work
In accordance with Title 34, Chapter 33A (the ACT), of the Code of Alabama 1975, bidders for fire alarm work of this project, if any, must include with their bid evidence of licensure as required by the ACT by including with the bid submittal a valid State Fire Marshal's permit.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE
A mandatory pre-bid conference for prequalified Prime General

Contractor's will be held at the 2020 Building, 2020 8th Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35233 on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 10:00 AM CST.

BT07/09/2020

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, notice is hereby given that Bennett Building, Inc., Contractor, has completed the Contract for New Weight Room Building for Chelsea High School at 10510 County Road 11, Chelsea, AL 35043, for the owners, and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify Bennett Building, Inc. Lathan and Associates (Architect) Bennett Building, Inc. (Contractor) 120 Shady Acres Road Alabaster, AL 35007

BT07/09/2020

NOTICE

Notice to Dr. Julio C.A. Delgado that the Florida Board of Medicine issued a Notice of Intent to Deny renewal of ME125327 which was sent via certified mail and returned unclaimed. This notice becomes a final order if no request for hearing is received by the Department on or before July 24, 2020. Contact the Agency Clerk by phone at (850) 245-4005 or fax at (850) 245-4790.

BT07/09/2020

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA BOARD OF EQUALIZATION & ADJUSTMENTS

Notice of Valuation of Property

In accordance with State of Alabama Code, Section 40-2-18, the Jefferson County, Alabama Board of Equalization has set 2020 real property value for all parcels located in Jefferson County, Alabama. Beginning on June 29, 2020 these values are available for public inspection in the Birmingham and Bessemer Courthouse's Board of Equalization or you may log on to the Board of Equalization website to locate the value. Objections must be filed in writing within 30 calendar days of the objection notice date. Instructions addressing objections to value are also available on our website at: boe.jccal.org

BT07/09/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-900219

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: WILLIAM H. GAMBLE (DECEASED) AND HIS UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVICES: BELINDA TREADWELL; WILLIAM DAVID GAMBLE; CYNTHIA JONES; NANCY OLIVE HOLCOMBE; PATRICIA WALDROP; JOHNATHAN GAMBLE, CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

The Birmingham Land Bank Authority recorded notice in the Probate of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action involving the following property:

That parcel of real property located at 264 55th Street North, Birmingham, Alabama and having a legal description of: The South 36.5 feet of Lot 5, in Block 2 according to the Survey of O.W. Wood, Jr. Woodlawn Property and also incorrectly described in Real Volume 390, Page 291 as "The South 36.5 feet of Lot 15, according to the Survey of O.W.Wood, Jr Woodlawn Property as recorded in Map Book 1, Page 241, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Jefferson County, Alabama

and assigned Parcel ID No. 23-00-21-2-008-003.000

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for July 16, 2020 in Room 340, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 9:00 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

DO YOU NEED TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD IN THE BIRMINGHAM TIMES?

Phone: 205 251 5158
Fax: 205 323 2294
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10503, Birmingham, AL 35205

Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care Greer B. Mallette, Christian & Small, LLP, 505 20th Street North, Suite 1800 Financial Center, Birmingham, AL 35203 at (205) 795-6588.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 22nd day of June, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/09/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-900225

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: MICHAEL E. MCNABB; PATRICIA Y. COMER.ESQ.; JORDAN SCRAP, INC.; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA;CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

The Birmingham Land Bank Authority recorded notice in the Probate of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action involving the following property:

That parcel of real property located at 4229 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35222 and having a legal description of: Lot 11, Block 3, according to the Map and Survey of Laird-Falls and Weiser's Subdivision, as recorded in Map Book 2, Page 25, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Jefferson County, Alabama, and also a lot or parcel of land lying adjacent to said Lot 11, fronting 61.35 feet on the South side of Morris Avenue and extending back southwardly along the Western line of Lot 11, 135 feet, more or less to the Northern boundary line of Alabama Great Southern Railway right-of-way; said lot and parcel of land hereby being more particularly described as commencing at the intersection of the Southerly line of Morris Avenue with the Western line of Laird (43rd) Street; thence in a westerly direction along the Southerly line of said Morris Avenue 523 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence in a Southerly direction and parallel with the Western line of Laird Street 135 feet, more or less, to the right-of-way of the Alabama Great Southern Railway; thence in a westerly direction along the Northerly line of said right-of-way 111.35 feet; thence in a northerly direction at right angles to said Alabama Great Southern Railway right-of-way 135 feet, more or less, so the Southern line of Morris Avenue, thence in an Easterly direction along the Southern line of Morris Avenue 111.35 feet to the Point of Beginning, in the Probate of Jefferson County, Alabama

and assigned Parcel ID No. 23-00-29-2-013-019.000

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for July 16, 2020 in Room 340, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 9:00 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall,

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710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care Greer B. Mallette, Christian & Small, LLP, 505 20th Street North, Suite 1800 Financial Center, Birmingham, AL 35203 at (205) 795-6588.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 22nd day of June, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/09/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-900226

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: THE ESTATE OF CHARLES E. MADDOX, his unknown heirs ans devisees; ANTOINETTE B. MADDOX, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Charles E. Maddox; KEITH MURPHY; PATRICIA PRUITT; FRANK NETTLES; CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, its successors and assigns; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on January 17, 2020 the Birmingham Land Bank Authority filed the above- styled Complaint and the Land Bank asserts that it has recorded notice in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action involving the following property:

That parcel of real property located at 1700 Jefferson Avenue SW, Birmingham, Alabama and having a legal description of: Lot 1-A, according to a Resurvey, as recorded in Map Book 137, Page 19, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Jefferson County, Alabama, of Lots 1-4, Block "A", J.T. Mullen's Addition to Beverly Place.

and assigned Parcel ID No. 29-00-09-3-003-045.002

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for July 24, 2020 in Room 670, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 9:00 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care Greer B. Mallette, Christian & Small, LLP, 505 20th Street North, Suite 1800 Financial Center, Birmingham, AL 35203 at (205) 795-6588.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 24th day of June, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/09/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-902062.00

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: MATTHEW HORNEL SMITH, III; SUSAN SMITH; CAROLYN R. ARNWINE, as heir of W.N. ARNWINE; BRYANT BANK; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on June 5, 2020 the Birmingham Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the Land Bank asserts that it has recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Property Address: 4905 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama 35212

Tax Parcel ID No.: 01-23-00-20-4-036-002.000

Legal Description: Lots 6 and 7, in Block 12, according to the Survey of Woodlawn Realty Company's First Addition, as recorded in Map Book 8, Page 32, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Jefferson County, Alabama, situated in Jefferson County, Alabama

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for September 4, 2020 in Room 340, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 9:00 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Cherokee W. Wooley, Law Offices of Thomas J. Skinner, IV, LLC, at (205) 802-2545.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 6th day of July, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/09/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-902331.00

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: DENNIS JONES; MIDLAND FUNDING LLC; CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A.; STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on June 25, 2020 the Birmingham Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the Land Bank asserts that it has recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Property Address: 309 Omega Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35205

Tax Parcel ID No.: 01-29-00-02-3-004-012.000

Legal Description: All that part of Lots 13 and 14, that lies North and East of drainage ditch in Block 2, according to the Survey of Elyton Highlands, as recorded in Map Book 8, Page

94, in the Probate Office of Jefferson County, Alabama, situated in Jefferson County, Alabama, being one and the same as the property described as BEG 100 FT S OF SE INTER OF KAPPA AVE & OMEGA ST THENCE S 60 FT SE 132 S FT N 100 FT W 125 FT to P O B BEING PART OF LOT 13 & 14 BLK 2 ELYTON HIGHLANDS LYING IN SW ¼ SEC 2 TP 18 R3W: being situated in Jefferson County, Alabama

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for September 4, 2020 in Room 340, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 9:00 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Cherokee W. Wooley, Law Offices of Thomas J. Skinner, IV, LLC, at (205) 802-2545.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 6th day of July, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/09/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-902332.00

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: LEO THOMAS and unknown heirs of LEO THOMAS; EMMA F. TUCKER; ABRAHAM BURNS; HANNAH BURNS and unknown heirs of HANNAH BURNS, individually and as Trustee for HANNAH BURNS a/k/a HAN & NAH BURNS, TISHAMDO BURNS, and ZARINAH BURNS; HANNAH BURNS a/k/a HAN & NAH BURNS; TISHAMDO BURNS; ZARINAH BURNS; UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA HOSPITAL a/k/a UAB HOSPITAL; GOLDOME CREDIT CORPORATION; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on June 25, 2020 the Birmingham Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the Land Bank asserts that it has recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Property Address: 308 Kappa Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35205

Tax Parcel ID No.: 01-29-00-02-2-026-011.000

Legal Description: Part of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 2, Township 18 North, Range 3 West, more particularly described as follows: Begin at a point on the South line of NW ¼ of Section 2, Township 18 North, Range 3 West, 15321.1 feet Westerly of the Southeast corner of said quarter section; thence continue West along the South line of said quarter section 36.4 feet; thence North 142.1 feet; thence East 36.65 feet; thence South 142.09 feet to the point of beginning; being one and the same as the property described as P O B 140 FT S OF E INTER KAPPA AVE & 3RD PL S TH E 36 FT S ALG KAPPA AVE TH N 135 S FT TO ALLEY TH W 36 FT S TH S 135 FT S to P O B LYING IN SW ¼ OF NW ¼ SEC 2 TP 18 R 3 SECT 02 TWP 18S RANGE 3W; being situated in Jefferson County, Alabama

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for September 14, 2020 in Room 360, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 9:00 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham

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Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Cherokee W. Wooley, Law Offices of Thomas J. Skinner, IV, LLC, at (205) 802-2545.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 6th day of July, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/09/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-902333.00

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: BEVERLY A. HALL KENNARD a/k/a BEVERLY A. HALL CANARD, WILBERT W. HALL, JR., FLORA J. ADAMS, SHIRLEY GRAY, and KAREN POPE, as heirs of WILBERT W. HALL, SR; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on June 25, 2020 the Birmingham Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the Land Bank asserts that it has recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Property Address: 314 Third Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205

Tax Parcel ID No.: 01-29-00-02-3-006-007.000

Legal Description: Fractional Lots 14 and 15, in Block 17, according to Map of Walker Land Co. Addition to Birmingham as recorded in Map Book 1, Page 257, in the Probate Office of Jefferson County, Alabama, said lots forming a triangle being bounded on the Southwest by Lot 13, on the Southeast by 3rd Avenue and the North by the North line of the SW ¼ of Section 2, Township 18, Range 3 West, situated in Jefferson County, Alabama

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 28, 2020 in Room 670, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 9:30 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Cherokee W. Wooley, Law Offices of Thomas J. Skinner, IV, LLC, at (205) 802-2545.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be

personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 6th day of July, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/09/2020

CASE NO. CV-2020-902335.00

THE BIRMINGHAM LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation,

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: GERTRUDE ELEANOR FISHER ANDERSON a/k/a G.E. ANDERSON, ANNIE ELIZABETH FISHER TURPIN, CYNTHIA TURNER a/k/a CYNTHIA LAVINIA FISHER SMART, THEODORA JOANNA FISHER JAMES, MILDRED INEZ FISHER DOTY, and ALBERT FRANKLIN FISHER and unknown heirs of ALBERT FRANKLIN FISHER, as heirs of ROSA JANE FISHER; LAWRENCE GOUDY, LINDA WILLIAMS, JONAH RUPERT, ETNA SPIGHT a/k/a ETNA SPEIGHT, NORMAN BURLEY RUPERT, II a/k/a NORMAN BURLY RUPERT, II, ALBERT EMANUEL RUPERT, PAULA DENISE MCCRARY, KARL ELLIS SMITH, ROBYN DIANN SMITH, ROBERT WILLIAM SMITH, II, CYNTHIA HARRIS a/k/a CYNTHIA L. NELSON, DEBRA NELSON, REGINALD NELSON, DAVID NELSON, and HERBERT NELSON, as heirs of EMANUEL RUPERT a/k/a EMANUL RUPERT; DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; LVNV FUNDING LLC; THE SUMMIT CLUB n/d/b/a CITY CLUB BIRMINGHAM; MIDLAND FUNDING LLC; STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; DISCOVER BANK; CREDIT ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION; DR. WILLIAM P. BUCK, JR., D.M.D., P.C.; ECO CREDIT UNION; SUBLETT PORTABLE BUILDINGS, L.L.C.; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on June 25, 2020 the Birmingham Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the Land Bank asserts that it has recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Property Address: 562 Antwerp Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35212

Tax Parcel ID No.: 01-23-00-22-3-013-013.000

Legal Description: Parcel I: Lot 7 and the South ½ of Lot 6,

Block 4, of Oak Ridge Park Subdivision, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as recorded in Map Book 5, Page 122, in the Probate Office of Jefferson County, Alabama and Parcel II: Lot 8, Block 4, of Oak Ridge Park Subdivision, according to a map or plat of said subdivision as recorded in Map Book 5, Page 122, in the Probate Office of Jefferson County, Alabama, situated in Jefferson County, Alabama

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for September 4, 2020 in Room 340, Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama at 9:00 A.M. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Birmingham Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Birmingham Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 710 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. The Birmingham Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Cherokee W. Wooley, Law Offices of Thomas J. Skinner, IV, LLC, at (205) 802-2545.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Birmingham Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Jefferson County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 6th day of July, 2020.

Jacqueline Anderson Smith, Circuit Clerk

BT07/09/2020

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Did you know longleaf pines are home to roughly 120 endangered or threatened plant and animal species?

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[AlabamaPower.com/Environment](https://alabamapower.com/Environment)  



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