

Celebrate the art of black history

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Black History Month comes alive in Montgomery with art exhibitions celebrating African-American history and modern life through works of multiple artists, expressing their views via a wide range of media.

See EXHIBITS » 3D

MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

TOP: "Rodney, Mississippi #2 (Road)" by Randy Hayes. LEFT: "Untitled" by Charles White. RIGHT: "Window" by Ernest Crichlow. These pieces are all part of MMFA's "Reflections" exhibition.



ARTS IN BRIEF

"Alice in Wonderland" extended at ASF: Since all performances of Alabama Shakespeare Festival's new production of "Alice in Wonderland" are sold out, ASF is adding four additional performances — at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Feb. 21 and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Feb. 22. The colorful, action-packed play is presented in ASF's Octagon Theatre. To buy tickets or for more information, go to www.asf.net. Coming up at ASF: "The Importance of Being Earnest" opens Feb. 27.

"Pastime," at Cloverdale Theatre: The winner of the Playhouse's 2014 Page-To-Stage series, "Pastime" by Greg Thornton, opens the theater's new season. The drama is set in the late 1980s in a large middle-class suburb of New York City and tells the story of a close-knit family dealing with the loss of the father and the subsequent battle over keeping the family house. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Feb. 22. For tickets, call 262-1530, go to www.cloverdaleplayhouse.org

or visit the theater's box office at 960 Cloverdale Road.

Wetumpka Depot "night, Mother," a collaboration of the Wetumpka Depot Players and South City Players of Alabaster, will be performed at AACTFest Region IV festival presented by the Southeastern Theatre Conference March 4-8 at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. Local audiences will have an opportunity to see the play at the We-

tumpka Depot Players Theatre, Feb. 26-28. Call the box office at 868-1440 or go to wetumpkadepot.com. The production became eligible for the festival when it was performed at the Alabama Conference of Theatre state festival last fall. The production won the festival and also garnered outstanding achievement in acting awards for Sue Ellen Gerrells and Kristy Meanor.

"A Southern Exposure" at the Red Door Theatre today, and then Feb. 21-22, located at Prairie Street and U.S. 82 in

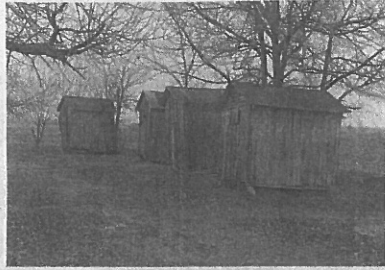
Union Springs. Today's show will include dinner. Young Britney Hurt of Kentucky seeks a life outside her small town. She's surrounded by her Bible-thumping grandmother, as well as card shark Ida Mae and Oprah fanatic Aunt Mattie. This is a sincerely Southern and comical story about love, sacrifice and the everlasting bond of family. Winner of Barter Theatre's Appalachian Festival of Plays and Playwrights.

Landmarks Foundation, the Alabama Department of Ar-

chives and History and Auburn's Draughton Center, with support of the Alabama Humanities Foundation, will sponsor a program Saturday on the beautiful, historic and useful rivers of Alabama at Archives and History. For details and registration information, call 888-1850, 240-4500 or 240-4518.

Upcoming at the Millbrook Theatre: "Clue: The Musical," at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19-21 and Feb. 26-28, and at 2 p.m. Feb. 22 and

See ARTS » 3D



Exhibits

Continued » 1D

At the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Renowned African-American artist and collector Myrna Colley-Lee comes to MMFA with the exhibition, "Reflections: African-American Life from the Myrna Colley-Lee Collection." To provide insight into the exhibition, at 6 p.m. Thursday, Colley-Lee will join MMFA Curator of Art Jennifer Jankauskas to discuss the exhibition (a reception begins at 5:30 p.m.).

"We will be talking about what draws her to these works and artists, and how it may impact her own work as a costume designer, how she is inspired by it," Jankauskas said. "This is really an opportunity to get into seeing the process of a collection and how it's built and grows. She has been collecting for about 30 years, and what we have on view — about 50 pieces — is only a segment of her collection."

Jankauskas said the exhibition, which will be at MMFA through March

8, is compelling, not only because it tells the story of African-Americans but it does so through the work of many artists — not all, but most are African-American — working in so many different media and styles.

"A lot of it is figurative and narrative in scope," Jankauskas said of the collection. "A lot of them are landscape images that will look familiar. Myrna Colley-Lee is from Mississippi, and she supports a lot of artists from that region."

"Reflections" tells a story of heritage, community and place through paintings, collages, photographs, textiles and works on paper, representing a dialogue between the artists and the ever-evolving African-American identity, and it reflects the attitude and eye of Colley-Lee, an artist and cultural connoisseur, and expert on the African storytelling tradition.

Colley-Lee was at the forefront of the Black Theater Movement as a costume designer. In 2014, a major retrospective of her work debuted at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit and is expected to

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: African-American artist and collector Myrna Colley-Lee discusses the exhibition, "Reflections: African-American Life from the Myrna Colley-Lee Collection," with MMFA Curator of Art Jennifer Jankauskas.

WHEN: Begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, followed by the discussion.

WHERE: The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, One Museum Drive in Blount Cultural Park

ADMISSION: Free

INFORMATION: mmfa.org

"Clay Cottonseed House" by Maude Schuyler

tour the U.S. in 2015.

Reflections: African-American Life from the Myrna Colley-Lee Collection is organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C., in collaboration with the office of Myrna Colley-Lee. It is sponsored by Hyundai and co-sponsored by Max Credit Union.

At the Alabama Artists Gallery

"A" — An Exhibition of Alabama African-American Artists: Celebrating African-American History Month & the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights Marches" is on exhibition through March 26 at the Georgine Clarke Alabama Artists Gallery on the first floor of the RSA Tower, 201 Monroe St. in downtown Montgomery.

The exhibition features the work of 12 African-American artists — Larry Allen, Nathaniel Allen III, Charmagne Andrews, Art Bacon, Tony Bingham, Leonard Dawson Jr., Winifred Hawkins, Darius Hill, John "Jahni" Moore, Clifton Pearson, E. Bruce Phillips Jr. and Cleve Webber. The collection includes large-scale pinhole

MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

photographs, mixed media paintings and sculptures, charcoal drawings, clay sculptures and vessels and cast-iron sculptures. The gallery is operated by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and is free and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

At Huntingdon College

Huntingdon College's Black History Month art show will feature the work of Tuskegee University artist and assistant professor Bruce Phillips. His "Journey in Architectural Perspective, 2009-2015," continues with viewing times from 5-7 p.m. nightly through Thursday.

Phillips blends painting, drawing, collage, photography and found objects on board, paper, canvas, glass and other surfaces, exploring the juxtaposition of precise perspective with the mystery of the abstract. Huntingdon College is at 1500 E. Fairview Ave. in Montgomery's Cloverdale district. For more information, call 833-4515.

Arts

Continued » 1D

March 1 at the theater, 5720 Main St. in Millbrook. The internationally popular game is now a fun-filled musical which brings the world's best-known suspects to life and invites the audience to help solve the mystery: Who killed Mr. Boddy, in what room and with what weapon? For information, log on to www.millbrooktheatre.com, call 782-7317 or email info@millbrooktheatre.com.

Southern Makers: On May 2 and May 3, more than 100 of

Alabama's top makers will come together at the Union Station Train Shed in downtown Montgomery for the third annual Southern Makers event, celebrating Southern creativity and innovation. To view the full list of 2015 Southern Makers, visit www.southernmakers.com.

Coming in March to Prattville's Way-Off Broadway: Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple: Female Version," beginning March 13 and running week-ends through the end of March. Florence Unger and Olive Madison are at it again in Simon's contemporary comic classic female version. Contact the special events office at 595-0854 or visit wob@prattvilleal.gov.

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THOMAS HINDS, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

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BRIDGE BY STEVE BECKER

Safety plays come in all shapes and sizes, and are necessary in many deals. Sometimes, though, declarer must not get so carried away with guarding against an unfavorable division that he winds up more sorry than safe.

Take this case where South was in four spades and West led the king of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's ace and, intent on guarding against a 4-1 trump division — the only real threat to his contract — led the nine of spades and let it ride after East followed low. West won with the jack, cashed the heart queen and continued with the jack. Declarer ruffed and mullered over how to handle the remaining trumps.

One possibility was to enter dummy with a diamond, lead a trump and repeat the finesse. This would succeed if East had all the remaining spades, but would lose if West had started with two or three spades including a second honor card. In that case, South would lose two spades, a heart and a club for down one.

South decided that the remaining spades were more likely to be divided 2-1 than 3-0, so he cashed the ace. When West showed out, declarer had to lose another trump trick, and he finished down one.

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ 9 7 6
♥ A 4 2
♦ Q 10 4
♣ J 9 7 5

WEST
♦ J
♥ K Q J 9 7
♦ 9 8 6 2
♣ K Q 3

EAST
♦ Q 10 3 2
♥ 10 6 5
♦ 7 3
♣ 10 6 4 2

SOUTH
♦ A K 8 5 4
♥ 8 3
♦ A K J 5
♣ A 8

The bidding:
South 1♦ West 2♥ North 2♠ East Pass

Opening lead — king of hearts.

South had the right idea about protecting against a 4-1 trump break, but he went about it the wrong way. A superior approach is to cash the spade ace first and then lead a low spade to dummy's nine. In the actual deal, East wins with the ten, but declarer later picks up East's queen via a finesse.

The suggested play has more to recommend it than the obvious advantage of averting a guess on the second round of trumps. It is also the correct play mathematically. Cashing the ace first guards against West's having started with the singleton ten, jack or queen, while the first-round finesse wins only when West started with the singleton two or three. The odds are therefore 3-to-2 in favor of playing the ace first.

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