

Pride Magazine Newsletter - 6/5/2024: This Weeks Newsletter is Sponsored by Blumenthal



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This weeks newsletter is sponsored by Blumenthal! Also, check out some of Pride Magazine's informative articles in our May/June business Issue.

From the Publisher • Dee Dixon

June 5, 2024

WILL DOWNING - Blumenthal Arts



R&B's Will Downing returns with his signature baritone voice June 16 at Knight Theater. Get your tickets ["HERE"](#) before they're gone!

LALAH HATHAWAY - Blumenthal Arts



Music royalty Lalah Hathaway is bringing her soulful vocals to Charlotte June 23. Get your tickets now, [HERE!](#)

How Southern Lion Is Changing Charlotte's Shopping Experience



*Sonja Nichols, president and CEO of Southern Lion marketplace.
Photo by C.E. Clark Photography*

When Blacklion home décor marketplace closed last year after 27 years, it left a void not only as a destination location for savvy shoppers hoping to luck upon a distinctive new addition for their home or a unique gift for that friend who has everything, but also for those merchants for whom the venue had become a reliable avenue through which to showcase their wares.

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**Whitfield Lovell Passages - June 29 - September
22, 2024 / Mint Museum Uptown at Levine Center
for the Arts**



Whitfield Lovell: PASSAGES

Revealing hidden histories of emancipation and the African American experience

June 29–September 22, 2024

Mint Museum Uptown at Levine Center for the Arts



Whitfield Lovell: Passages is generously presented in Charlotte by PNC. Whitfield Lovell: Passages is organized by the American Federation of Arts in collaboration with Whitfield Lovell. Major support for the national tour and exhibition catalogue are provided by National Endowment for the Arts and the Terra Foundation for American Art. The Mint Museum is supported, in part, by the Infusion Fund and its donors as well as by the North Carolina Arts Council. ABOVE: Whitfield Lovell (American, b. Bronx, NY). Card Pieces (detail), 2020–2021, charcoal pencil on paper with attached playing card, each: 12 x 9 in. Courtesy of American Federation of the Arts, the artist, and DC Moore Gallery, New York

Mint Museum Uptown at Levine Center for the Arts | 500 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202 | 704.337.2000 | mintmuseum.org | @themintmuseum

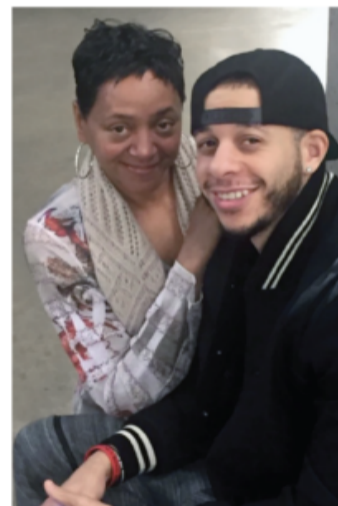
MEET JACKIE CURRY - Executive Producer of the John Boy & Billy Big Show

Meet Jackie Curry

Executive Producer of the John Boy & Billy Big Show

By Ruby Durham

She might not be shooting literal shots in the gym like her nephews



Left: Jackie Curry, producer of the John Boy & Billy Big Show. Right: Jackie Curry, Executive Producer of the John Boy & Billy Big Show, and her nephew, Steph Curry, point guard for the Golden State Warriors.

By Ruby Durham
She might not be shooting literal shots in the gym like her nephews Stephen and Seth, but Jackie Curry is helping write the winning playbook at the John Boy & Billy Big Show, a Charlotte-based syndicated radio show.

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Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance Is in the Business of Neighborhood Building



By Brenda Porter-Rockwell

Block parties and barbecues make for great television when it comes to showing the work of a nonprofit community-building effort. Behind the scenes, there is the neighborhood building strategy that leads to program funding and recognition to fuel the awareness that a block party brings.

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May 2024 Pride Magazine - NOTABLE NAMES

NotableNames

By Ryan Kouame

AYO JOHNSON

Mental Health America of Central Carolinas (MHIA) is pleased to announce **Ayo Johnson** as their new executive director. Johnson comes to the organization with years of experience in nonprofit management, fundraising, staff development, financial management and program analysis.

Johnson is a New York native and a veteran nonprofit leader with nearly a decade of experience at the Capital Area YMCA where she served as chief operating officer and chief human resources officer. Throughout her decades working in the nonprofit arena, she has helped build meaningful partnerships and implement strategic visions that achieve community and organizational objectives that help strengthen nonprofits.

Johnson holds a master's degree in organizational leadership and a bachelor's degree in global marketing from Rider University in New Jersey. She is also the owner of Wonder Girl Consulting, where she specializes in taking on interim CEO and COO assignments to help lead and stabilize organizations during times of transition.



AKIERA DAVIS

Digital marketing analyst and project manager **Akiera Davis** is the CEO of AKurated Solutions — a newly developed process optimization and project management agency. Davis started her career as a marketing communications coordinator for Sealed Air Corporation then went on to become a project manager with various agencies that include Red Ventures and McKinney — a full-service creative & media agency based in Durham.

Davis' new venture, AKurated Solutions, helps young professionals with all things marketing, project management, resume writing and process optimization. Her dynamic journey in creative project/program management is what inspired her to start the business and begin crafting solutions that streamline processes and implement cutting edge automation tools.

Davis earned her bachelor's degree in integrated marketing communication and holds a master's degree in business administration from Winthrop University. Ever since, she has been on a journey to champion efficiency, foster collaboration, and curate solutions that help move the needle and cultivate success. To learn more about Akiera and her business, visit her website at www.akurated.com.



BRENDA ROBINSON

Charlotte resident, **Brenda Robinson**, is the first Black female pilot in U.S. Navy history. Robinson says it all started when she visited an air traffic control tower when she was 16. Back then, Black women almost had no frame of reference for flying a plane. Still, Robinson pursued her degree in aeronautics at Dowling College and earned her wings of gold (the final qualification to become a pilot) in 1980 at the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

She joined the Navy in 1981 and her career was filled with firsts for Black women including flight instructor, evaluator, and VIP transport pilot. During the war in Iraq, she flew through fires and helped transport people, mail and supplies to troops on the ground.

She left the Navy after 13 years and went on to become a commercial pilot for American Airlines where she flew the Boeing 727, 757, and 767 for 17 years. She's now a sought-after speaker at schools and hosts events nationwide.



RAQILAH-SADE CLYBURN

Raqilah-Sade Clyburn is the founder of BkPmt, a community dedicated to creating safe spaces for Black women to connect, network, and build meaningful relationships.

Clyburn, a full-time content creator and digital marketing manager, started the organization to connect with Black women and to fight against the stigmas, pressures and issues they face. The idea came from a video that Clyburn made on TikTok, simply asking people to meet up for brunch during Black History Month. The video gained thousands of likes and support from all over and encouraged people to foster new connections. Their first meet-up started with about 10 people and has now grown into gatherings of more than 30 women. Past events have included a hike, Pilates and picnics.

Find BkPmt events social media (blkpmt.clt). To learn more, visit blkpmt.org.



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