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MOBILE BAY: YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Mobile Bay is ready to spread some holiday cheer this 2009/2010 season!
Here is a list of Mobile Bay's Holiday Season Happenings:

Attractions/Events:

- **Holiday Express** at the **Museum of Mobile** now through **December 31st**. From many Christmases past comes a nostalgic look at the toys, gifts, and holiday goodies of yesteryear. Artifacts from the Museum of Mobile's permanent collection and loans from within the Mobile community give exhibit visitors a unique opportunity to view items from children's pastimes and again become children themselves as they reminisce on the joys of Christmas morning. An experience the whole family will enjoy. Christmas is almost here, join us aboard the Holiday Express. For more information, please call (251) 208-7569 or visit www.museumofmobile.com
- The annual **Mum Festival** at **Bellingrath Gardens and Home** begins on **November 7 and lasts through November 22**. This celebration of autumn is reflected in thousands of mums displayed throughout the Gardens. For more information, call (800) 247-8420 or visit www.bellingrath.org
- The **Lighting of the Trees** will be held on Friday, **November 20** in downtown Mobile's **Bienville Square**. Join Santa as the holiday season is kicked off! There will be holiday sights and sounds to amaze. Stroll, eat and shop for holiday fare. Between the Holiday Gift & Farmers Market, festive children's activities, carolers and crafts, and other local entertainment all evening, there is sure to be something for children of every age. For more information, please call (251) 208-7540 or visit www.ncsmobile.org
- A world of entertainment awaits at the annual **Mobile International Festival** on **November 21** at the **Mobile Civic Center**. The Gulf Coast's premier international cultural event is celebrating 26 years of exciting family fun. Enjoy the adventure of first-hand experience of varied cultures. Come face-to-face with people from every corner of the planet. See the arts and crafts, hear the sounds, be entertained, and taste the flavors of the world while enjoying performances from the Lobby and Corridor stages. For more information, please call (251) 470-7730 or visit www.mobileinternationalfestival.org

- **Bellingrath Gardens and Home's "Magic Christmas in Lights"** opens **November 27 through December 31 (closed on Christmas Day)**. Magic Christmas in Lights, Bellingrath's annual Christmas light display, will feature over 3 million twinkling lights, 902 set pieces in 12 major scenes throughout Bellingrath's 65 acre estate garden. Like the rest of the Gardens, the Bellingrath Museum Home is decorated in its holiday finery. During MCIL guests may tour the home during the day and throughout the evening until 8:00 pm. Nightly choral performances are held on the South Terrace of the Bellingrath Home. Bellingrath's Magnolia Café is open each day from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm for lunch and from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm for dinner. Dinner menus feature local seafood classics and traditional holiday favorites. Bellingrath's Gift Shop is filled with holiday gift items and decorations for all types of collectors. The gift shop is open daily from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm. For more information call (800) 847-8420 or visit www.bellingrath.org
- The **Wales West Light Railway** is holding their 4th annual **Arctic Express Christmas** event running from **Nov. 27th through Dec. 24th**. Nov 27 through Dec. 17th weekends only then December 18th thru 24th, open daily. Ride behind our unique steam powered locomotive "Dame Ann" over one mile of decorated track to the North Pole. Visit with Santa in his magic barn and receive a toy from his workshop with your visit. The entire park, train, train stations and North Pole are beautifully decorated with over 1,000,000 lights. Upon returning to the main station children will be treated to hot chocolate, a cookie and a candy cane. Call 1-888-569-5337 or visit www.waleswest.com
- The **Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center and Imax® Theater** will be showing the **IMAX animated holiday film, *The Light Before Christmas***, this holiday season. This film will be shown throughout the holidays in the J.L. Bedsole IMAX® Dome Theater. Opening the day after Thanksgiving, **November 27, and running thru January 4, 2009** this film is great entertainment for the whole family. For more information please call 1-877-625-4FUN or visit www.exploreum.com
- **North Pole Stroll in Downtown Mobile** will take place on **Friday, December 4th** from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. The North Pole Stroll's inaugural year's activities will be centered on **Royal and Dauphin streets**. Highlights include: Children's activities in the Exploreum and Museum of Mobile, the unveiling of 20 decorated balconies at the Hampton Inn, carolers and other live entertainment, a special Fed Ex box for "Letters to Santa," storytime in the lobby of the Battle House Hotel, holiday vendors and a "Snow Tunnel" for little ones to explore.
- **December 5** is the annual **Dog River Christmas Boat Parade (a.k.a. Christmas on the River)**. **Attend the parade at the Grand Mariner Marina** and watch the Alabama's Official Tall Ship, the Joshua lead festive decorated boats down Dog River in Mobile's oldest boat parade. The boats circle and pass Dog River Bridge as treats are thrown to the cheering crowd. Dusk-8 p.m. For more information, call (251) 443-6300 or visit www.grandmarinermarina.com

- On Saturday, **December 5**, Spanish Fort's third annual **Spirit of Christmas Parade** (9 am) will take place at the **Eastern Shore Centre**. Anyone interested in entering a float or organization should contact the Eastern Shore Centre office at (251) 625-0060. All are welcome.
- **Fort Gaines** will be celebrating their 25th annual "**Christmas at the Fort**" on **December 5**. Visit with "Papa Noel," watch demonstrations on cooking, candle dipping and the art of blacksmith. Children will have the opportunity to make a keepsake ornament. For more information, call (251) 861-6992.
- The annual **Fowl River Boat Parade** will set sail on **Saturday, December 12**. Parade begins at 5:30pm at the Southern Belle Landing. Come to the Pelican Reef at the Fowl River Marina to see the parade and catch some holiday throws! For more information call Alabama Cruises 251-973-1244 or email alacruises@bellsouth.net
- **Mobile's Annual Christmas and Holiday Parade** will take place in **downtown Mobile** on **December 19**. It will feature floats, giant balloons, marching bands performing holiday music, mascots, Shriners, parading puppies, children's activities in Bienville Square and of course, Santa Claus will be one of the many special guests in attendance. For more information, please visit www.ncsmobile.org call (251) 470-7730.
- **MoonPie Over Mobile New Year Celebration in downtown Mobile on December 31!** Moonpie Over Mobile is back. With over 12,000 people in attendance last year, this year's New Year's event will usher in the New Year and Mardi Gras season in grand style. Come and get a larger glimpse at the moonpie as it rises over the city in downtown Mobile. There will be live entertainment, activities for the kids and a countdown to 2010 like no other. For more information please visit www.ncsmobile.org or call (251) 470-7730.

Historic Home Holiday Celebrations

- The **Oakleigh Historic Complex** will be hosting an authentic look at a **19th-century Gulf Coast holiday celebration** with live **musical performances at Oakleigh Historic Complex on December 5-6**. Step back into a festive 19th century holiday celebration at Oakleigh Historic Complex. For more information please call(251) 432-6161 or visit www.historicmobile.org
- This year the **Richards DAR House** will be celebrating the holidays on **December 5 and 6**. Experience a historic home ready for the holidays! The whole house will be decorated, homemade refreshments served and there will be entertainment to celebrate the holiday season. For more information, call (251) 208-7320 or visit www.richardsdarhouse.com

- The **Condé Charlotte Museum House Christmas Celebration** will take place on **Saturday, December 5**. The garden and home exterior at 104 Theatre Street adjacent to Fort Conde will be decorated for Christmas. Enjoy refreshments, Christmas music including the *Sweet Adelines*, and an overview of Mobile's history on the tour. An I SPY game will be offered to children over 7 years. Regular hours of operation 10 - 4. For more information call 251-432-4722 or visit www.condecharlottemuseum.com
- **A Historic Holiday Open House** will be held on **December 6** with free admission and refreshments at **The Museum of Mobile**, 111 S. Royal St. This festive celebration features a visit from St. Nick and storytelling, as well as musical performances and skits by Comedia del Arte. For more information, please call (251) 208-7569 or visit www.museumofmobile.com
- On **December 6**, the **Bragg-Mitchell Mansion** will host "**Christmas at the Mansion.**" Come Home for the Holidays to a festive afternoon at the historic Bragg-Mitchell Mansion during the annual Christmas Open House. Tour the Mansion with traditional decorations adorning each room and enjoy handmade refreshments as seasonal and sacred music fills the winter air. For more information, call (866) 471-6364 or visit www.braggmitchellmansion.com

Visual and Performing Arts

- **CMT Presents Jamey Johnson with special guest Randy Houser on November 19** at the **Saenger Theatre**. Come see this amazing singer/songwriter perform his best tunes for you. For more information, please call (251) 208-5600 or visit www.mobilesaenger.com
- **AEG LIVE presents American Idol winner David Cook** will be entertaining the crowd with his chart-topping music on **November 24** at the **Saenger Theatre**. For more information, please call (251) 208-5600 or visit www.mobilesaenger.com
- **AEG LIVE** is proud to present "**Dave Koz and Friends: A Smooth Jazz Christmas**" on the **Saenger Theater** stage for an exclusive holiday show on **Friday, November 27** with special guests David Benoit, Rick Braun, Brenda Russell and Peter White. For more information please call (251) 208-5600 or visit www.mobilesaenger.com
- Local Mobile County schools join the **Mobile Regional Airport** to celebrate the holiday season. Starting **December 1**, local elementary schools will **decorate the airport with themed holiday trees**. Trees will be on display until after the New Year. **Choirs from area schools and churches will also serenade visitors for the month of December**. For more information, please call Chloe Harkins, 251-639-4680 or visit www.mobairport.com

- **Mobile Playhouse in the Park** presents *A Christmas Carol* – an adapted script from the classic Charles Dickens novel, at the **Saenger Theatre** in downtown Mobile on the evening of **December 4**. Singing and dancing along with spectacular special ghostly effects make this a performance you won't want to miss! For more information, please call (251) 602-0630 or visit www.playhouseinthepark.org
- The Daphne Civic Center presents **“Winter Wonderland Concert 2009”** featuring the **Baldwin Pops** Monday, **December 7**. Doors at the **Daphne Civic Center** open at 6:00 pm and the concert begins at 7:00 pm. Admission is free to the public. The concert is a Daphne Civic Center production. www.daphneciviccenter.org
- The **Mobile Opera** will present a *Messiah Sing-In* on **December 7**. Join guest soloists, the Mobile Opera Chorus and a chamber orchestra. Please join us at 7:00 PM for this wonderful evening. Location to be announced. For more information, please call (251) 432-6772 or visit www.mobileopera.org
- The **Mobile Ballet** will present *The Nutcracker* at the **Mobile Civic Center Theater** on **December 12 and 13**. This classic ballet is the perfect way to prepare for the holiday season. For more information, call (251) 342-2241 or visit www.mobileballet.org
- The **Mobile Symphony Pops Series** presents *Yuletide Spectacular* on **December 12 and December 13** at the **Mobile Saenger Theatre**. There's nothing like the Mobile Symphony to get you into the holiday spirit. The Big Man in Red, sleigh bells, elves (and maybe even some snow) will all make an appearance as the Mobile Symphony serves up a bowlful of holiday cheer. We present all your favorite carols, hilarious Christmas pops tunes, moving and inspiring spirituals, great classics of Rimsky-Korsakov and Tchaikovsky... and of course our annual sing-along. Bring your best singing voice and a big smile. Perfect for the whole family! For more information call 251-432-2010 or visit www.mobilesymphony.org
- **Appearance and concert by American Idol runner-Up Blake Lewis at B-Bob's on Saturday December 19, 11:00pm.** Must be 19 years or older to attend. For more information please call (251) 433-2262 or visit www.b-bobs.com
- The **Saenger Theatre** is proud to present their **Christmas Film Series** featuring *It's a Wonderful Life* on **December 17**. George Bailey (James Stewart) has spent his life serving his community, often at the cost of his own happiness. One Christmas Eve, faced with bankruptcy and jail, George is reduced to despair and contemplates suicide. So heaven sends his guardian angel to show George how dismal life in his hometown would have been if he had never been born. George decides to live, and his many friends lend him a hand in this holiday favorite." For more information please call (251) 208-5600 or visit www.mobilesaenger.com

- The **Saenger Theatre** is proud to present their **Christmas Film Series** featuring *A White Christmas* on **December 18** starring Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye star as two song-and-dance men who team up after the war to see a charming New England inn through its holiday season. A veritable treasure of Irving Berlin classics including "Count Your Blessings Instead Of Sheep," "Sisters," "Blue Skies," and, of course, Bing Crosby's immortal rendition of "White Christmas. For more information please call (251) 208-5600 or visit www.mobilesaenger.com

Exclusive Shopping Opportunities

- **Sidewalk sale at inside up** on Conception Street on **Saturday, November 14th 10-5pm & Sunday, November 15th 1-5pm**. Bringing back the legendary city sidewalks to downtown Mobile. Enjoy hot cider and Christmas cookies while you shop! Wonderful gift selections with quality, style & price at its best! All wrapped perfectly and ready for under the tree! For more information please call 251- 454-4216.
- The **Eastern Shore Art Center** located in Downtown Fairhope is hosting their annual **Christmas Market** on **November 21 and 22**. This exclusive market will feature over 20 local artists and crafters in conjunction with Fairhope's Downtown Open House shopping event. Christmas Trees decorated with small artworks, framed, unframed canvases and much more. For more information, please call (251) 928-2228 or visit www.easternshoreartcenter.com
- **After Thanksgiving Midnight Madness Event** begins at 12:00am on Friday, **November 26** at the **Tanger Outlet Center in Foley, AL**. After your Thanksgiving meal is finished, make plans to head to Tanger for an exciting night of outlet shopping fun. The big, bonus holiday savings begin at midnight on Thanksgiving night and then last all weekend long Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The first 250 early bird shoppers that register at Tanger on Saturday morning, November 28th at opening will receive a free pack of Harry & David Moose Munch snack. Start your After Thanksgiving shopping at Tanger where you will find the best brands and biggest holiday savings.
- **December 4 - 5, the Mobile Botanical Gardens** will be holding their annual **Holiday Sale at the Gardens**. Fresh greenery and decorations by the Mobile County Master Gardeners, over 50 varieties of poinsettias, books and garden gifts will be on sale December 4 from 9am – 4pm and on December 5 from 9am – 12pm. For more information call the Mobile Botanical Gardens at (251) 342-0555 or visit www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org
- **Cotton City Antique Mall** will be having their **annual Christmas Open House** on **December 5, from 4pm till 8pm**. Refreshments will be served and there will be door prize drawing during those hours. Throughout that weekend **Pre-Christmas Sales** will be going on. For more information call (251) 479-9747.

- Get your Christmas shopping completed and experience some great holiday fun all in one day! **The Springhill Area of Mobile** is hosting their annual “**Christmas on the Hill**” celebration on **December 5**. This event offers carriage rides, refreshments, visits with Santa and incredible shopping opportunities from many Springhill merchants. For more information, call (251) 342-4911.
- **Cathedral Square Art Gallery** presents “**Holiday Splendors**” – miniature works for Christmas and Hanukkah gifts on **December 11** at the LoDa Artwalk. For more information visit www.cathedralsquaregallery.com or call (251) 694-0278.

Exclusive Dining Opportunities

- The **Renaissance Riverview Plaza** is hosting a gourmet **Thanksgiving Brunch** on **Thursday, November 26**. Feast on the Gulf Coast’s finest cuisine this Thanksgiving at **Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel**. The culinary experts at Renaissance Riverview will be cooking up a cornucopia of traditional and appetizing entrées. Guests will also receive complimentary champagne and mimosas. Seating times are scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The price for adults is \$32; for seniors, \$27; and children age 6 to 12, \$16. Children age 5 and under will eat for free. For reservations, please call (251) 438-4000.
- Feast on the Gulf Coast’s finest cuisine on **November 26** at Mobile’s only Four Diamond restaurant, **the Trellis room at the Battle House Hotel** for this year’s **Thanksgiving Brunch**. For \$58 per person, the Battle House, A Renaissance Hotel & Spa, invites you to soak in its elegant surroundings while partaking in a decadent four course meal. The menu offers everything from crab cakes to grilled prime filet of beef, and of course includes the traditional option of roasted turkey breast. Two seating times are available; the first seating is from 11:30 a.m. to Noon, and the second is from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. To make reservations, please call (251) 338-2000.
- Chef Mike Wallace and the culinary experts at the **Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa** will be preparing a delicious spread of holiday cuisine at this year’s **Christmas Day Buffet**. The Grand Christmas Day Buffet will be on **Friday, Dec. 25**, and will be serving guests from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This Grand Experience will feature live entertainment (251) 928-9201 for reservations. Reservations are recommended.
- The culinary experts at the **Battle House, a Renaissance Hotel** will be preparing delicious holiday cuisine for this year’s **Battle House Christmas Menu**. This exclusive menu will be offered on **Friday, Dec. 25** in the **Trellis Room**. For \$58 per person, guests can dine in the elegant Christmas decor while enjoying a decadent four course meal. The menu offers an arrangement pleasing to the palate and reminiscent of traditional Christmas feasts, including duck confit, grilled prime filet and of course warm bread pudding. Three seating times are available; the first seating is from 11:30 a.m. to Noon, the second is from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the final time is from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For reservations and more information, please call (251) 338-2000.

Exclusive Lodging Opportunities

- **Marriott Fairfield Inn & Suites and Marriott Courtyard Spanish Fort** are excited to offer **discounts for Holiday Stays**. Starting **November 16** we will be offering **\$20 off** at both hotels until **January 2nd** of next year. When you come back to Mobile for the Holidays, enjoy your stay with Marriott. Please ask for the Home for the Holidays rate starting. For more information please visit www.marriott.com/mobsf or www.marriott.com/mobsp or call 251-513-0336.
- **Homewood Suites Mobile** is proud to offer **special Holiday Rates November 22 - 28 and December 17-January 01**. This rate is **\$99 for a one bedroom suite**, a savings of \$50 off the regular rates. All suites still include a fabulous complimentary hot breakfast buffet daily, a spacious two-room suite with fully-equipped kitchen, complimentary dinner buffet Mon-Thurs evenings with beer and wine, and of course complimentary Wireless High-Speed Internet and shuttle service to anywhere within a 3 mile radius of the hotel. For more information please visit www.mobile.homewoodsuites.com or call (251) 634-8664.