

HOT TOPICS

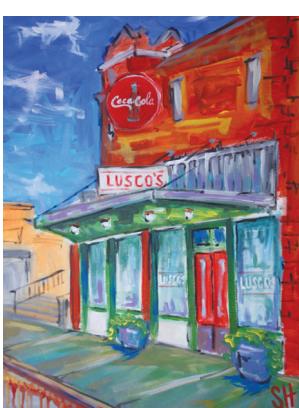
what's new and noteworthy



Lusco's celebrates 80 years

My first memory of Lusco's was going there as a child in the 1960s in the high heat of summer with my whole family. Good rains in July and August usually meant that "high cotton" was predicted, hence "Rain Celebration Dinners" at Lusco's. I remember the smoky, air-conditioned ("it's KOOL inside") atmosphere, with loud, echoing laughter emanating from behind the mysterious curtained booths. There was also dancing next to the jukebox in the back—the only jukebox I ever knew that had Louis Armstrong's "When it's Sleepy Time Down South;" the ceiling was covered with pats of butter that had been "flipped" there by napkin or knife by over-imbibed patrons;

the men's room was outside in the open air; and there was a buzzer in each booth that one pushed to summon the waiter. Except for the long gone jukebox, the addition of a printed menu—it was recited by white-coated black waiters in its heyday, and smokers being made to smoke outside, Lusco's has remained much the same. It celebrates its 80th Anniversary in 2013. Charles and Marie Lusco opened Lusco's in 1933 during Prohibition as a grocery store with partitioned booths in the rear for dining and privacy to drink home-brewed beer and bootlegged



whiskey. The restaurant passed on to family member Sara Gory "Bebe" Pinkston in 1976, and now is owned by her son, Andy Pinkston and grandson, Drew Pinkston. For the big celebration, Karen Pinkston is making a special edition Lusco's t-shirt and a signed and numbered print featuring artwork by Shawn Hodges. In March, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights will be "Italian nights," as Karen adds some of the family's homemade special recipes to the menu. *Lusco's*, 722 Carrollton Avenue, Greenwood, (662) 453-5365 — MAUDE SCHUYLER CLAY

“The River left gold in the Delta. It was the gold the color of chocolate, gold that was not in the earth but was the earth.” — HISTORIAN JOHN M. BARRY

Greenville's own HBO Best Documentary award winner

While Shawn Wilson didn't start out to make a film, his documentary, "Separate, But Equal" has won several accolades, including HBO Best Documentary, and the "Nothing is Impossible" Producers Award at the 2011 Martha's Vineyard Film Festival.

Wilson grew up in Greenville, but moved away at age 17. Years later, he returned to find the photographer who shot the photo of his late mother, one he carried with him for years. "I met Henry Clay Anderson, who gave me his body of work. Most were images I had not seen of Mississippi, and I knew that this was a story about my home state that needed to get out into the world." Thanks to Wilson, Anderson's work is now on special display at the Smithsonian. On March 22,

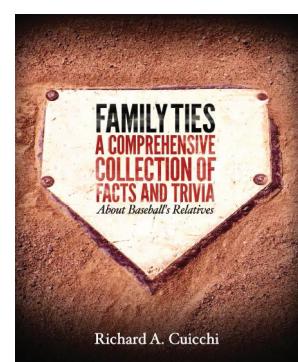
Wilson will be recognized by the Greenville Arts Council at the Greenville Honors its Own event. For 30 years, the Greenville Arts Council has honored artists with roots in Washington County who have made a significant contribution to the world of art and have been recognized outside the Delta for their work. "It's a big

honor for me," says Wilson. "This film is so much bigger than me. I'm a storyteller, and this story is helping to build community esteem, one community at a time." *To learn more about the film, visit separatebutequalfilm.com.* — SUSAN MARQUEZ



Baseball is All Relative: Tracing baseball through families

Think about it. Who did you first play baseball with? Probably your dad along with your brothers and uncles and possibly a grandfather. Sports are handed down from generation to generation, so it's only natural that the nation's favorite pastime is full of "kinfolk" on the Major League Level. Richard A. Cuicchi, a Shaw native, has written a detailed 364-page retrospective of baseball relatives, *Family Ties: A Comprehensive Collection of Facts and Trivia About Baseball's Relatives*. The retired IT executive loves research—especially related to baseball. A few decades back he began "writing down interesting facts" and later expanded on them. Nineteen chapters encompass brothers, fathers, umpires and plenty more.



Dave "Boo" Ferriss, fellow Shaw native and Mississippi State/Delta State/Red Sox legend, recommends the book to any baseball fan. "He put some great facts together," Ferriss says. "Brothers and brothers and fathers and sons—Oh, everything. I call it a jewel. He's a walking encyclopedia of baseball." See thetenthinning.com. — MARK STOWERS

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