

DEATHS

Melody G Shackelford
August 22, 1966 ~ July 7, 2024
Tessa Maria Echols
May 12, 1947 - July 8, (2024)
Samuel Glenn Butler
November 17, 1939 - July 9, 2024
Kathy June
January 6, 1952 - July 9, (2024)
Barry King
January 31, 1957 ~ July 9, 2024
David John Cavanaugh
January 25, 1949 - July 10, 2024
George Mojica
June 10, 1946 ~ July 10, 2024
William McCoy Coussons
February 13, 1934 - July 10, (2024)
Teresa Kaye Hanback
June 18, 1967 - July 10, (2024)
Bryson Robert Gary
August 15, 1956 - July 11, (2024)
Sue Anna Billingsley
December 14, 1939 ~ July 12, 2024
Joe D. Lorenzo
August 2, 1971 - July 12, (2024)
Mary Evelyn McClain
October 24, 1935 - July 13, (2024)
Gary Michael Beck
August 20, 1966 - July 14, (2024)
Gloria Ann (West) Babb
March 4, 1953 ~ July 15, 2024
Sarah Elizabeth (Parsons) Hobbs
December 14, 1931 ~ July 17
Donnie Elton Mangrum
March 2, 1954 ~ July 17, 2024

Horace Weekley Jordan, Jr
July 17, 2024
Riley Dell Reels, Jr.
November 11, 1970 ~ July 18, 2024
Mattie Denise Darby
May 4, 1962 ~ July 20, 2024
Gladys Corine Hall Alexander
March 4, 1934 - July 23, 2024
Nellie "Faye" Mann
February 17, 1939 - July 23, (2024)
Iva Dell Little
July 3, 1936 ~ July 23, 2024
Brenda Holden
July 28, 1947 - July 24, 2024
DeMylah Delyric Nixon-Johnson
January 2, 2008 ~ July 24, 2024
Alvin Bernard "Tennessee" Ricks
May 4, 1965 ~ July 25, 2024
John Thomas Stewart
October 16, 1947 ~ July 25, 2024
Kenneth Ray Horton
June 10, 1963 ~ July 26, 2024
Indigo Jade Shanice Fort
January 2, 1993 ~ July 26, 2024
Carolyn (Davis) Coman
April 7, 1948 ~ July 26, 2024
Dimple Faye Watkins
February 16, 1947 ~ July 26, 2024
Edward Lee Taylor Jr.
November 7, 1949 - July 26, 2024
William Harry Hayes
June 6, 1940 - July 28, 2024
James L. Lovelace
January 2, 1937 ~ July 28, 2024
Lawrence McFirm Poole, Sr.
February 2, 1949 ~ July 28, 2024
Charles Edwin Balentine
January 23, 1951 ~ July 29, 2024
Gene Casper Peters

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BETTY DAVIS

September 21, 1972 ~ August 1, 2024

Where Did All the Money from the WC Handy Fest Go?

written by Ramona Barnett

The annual WC Handy Fest, held in Florence, Alabama, is a celebration of the life and legacy of William Christopher Handy, also known as the "Father of the Blues." The festival features live music performances, arts and crafts vendors, food vendors, and various activities for attendees to enjoy. However, there have been questions raised about where all the money generated from this popular event goes? Did Anyone Consider Offering Any Money to the WC Handy Home and Museum?

One of the main concerns surrounding the WC Handy Fest is where all the profits go. While it is no secret that hosting such a large-scale event incurs significant costs, many it was told to me that all the money that is received by the community is supposed to be made public and for years no one questioned it so nobody knows has been left in the dark regarding the distribution of funds. Transparency in financial reporting is crucial, especially for events that are embraced by the community and draw in tourists. Many residents feel that a portion of the proceeds should be allocated to local initiatives, such as the WC Handy Home and Museum, which play a significant role in preserving the history and culture of the area. Creating a clearer dialogue between festival organisers and the community about financial allocations could foster trust and further engage the public in future festivals.

As the festival continues to grow, it's essential for stakeholders to consider not only the expenses but also the potential positive impact that could stem from reinvesting in local heritage and tourism.

This dialogue is particularly important given the festival's long-standing history and its significance to both the local community and the broader music culture. Stakeholders must explore viable solutions for ensuring that a portion of the festival's profits directly supports the WC Handy Home and Museum. One potential approach could involve setting up a dedicated fund where a percentage of the festival's revenue is allocated specifically for the museum's operational costs and educational programs. Additionally, establishing a committee composed of community members, festival organizers, and museum representatives could help oversee financial transparency and decision-making processes. By actively involving the community in these discussions, the festival can bolster local pride, enhance tourism, and ensure a lasting legacy that honours WC Handy's contributions to music history.

We invite anyone with factual information to reach out to us. We would love to publish your insights to provide the public with truthful answers, supporting the continued growth of the W.C. Handy Festival.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

FROM EVELYN'S

KITCHEN



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