(110) Swan

gle Noonday

If You Go

5:30 p.m.

2822 W. Erwin St.

Open Thursday through

Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to

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Gloria Washington and Clarence Shackelford, cofounders of the Texas African American Museum, in front of their display at Unique Shopping Mall on July 13, 2018. (J. Edward Moreno/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

Tucked behind aisles of antiques and artisan goods in the back right corner of Unique Shopping Mall on 2822 W. Erwin St. is the temporary home of the Texas African

American Museum.

ancestors.

the African-American community in Texas and East Texas specifically. African art and poll tax receipts from Smith County can be found in the quaint, one-room facilty. Clarence Shackelford, co-founder of the museum, said he was inspired to open it after realizing that he never saw any cultural memorabilia that reminded him of his

The museum showcases successes and milestones within

"A lot of our history wasn't documented, just because that's the way things were," he said. Shackelford remembers growing up and seeing primarily African-Americans working in the rose fields — an industry with which the city strongly identifies. "If you think about roses in Tyler, black people did most

of that work," he said, remembering the piles of roses he'd

On one side of the display are several photos of an

attended in 2003. Emmett Scott was the African-

Emmett J. Scott High School reunion that Shackelford

those photos is Marilyn Brown, who was visiting the

Brown, who said she was one of the first black sales

associates at the Sears, Roebuck and Co. in downtown

American high school in Tyler until integration. In one of

Gloria Washington and Clarence Shackelford, cofounders of the Texas African American Museum, in front of their display at Unique Shopping Mall on July 13,

2018. (J. Edward Moreno/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

see people remove the thorns from.

museum.

Tyler, worked there for 30 years. **SPONSORED CONTENT** Here's How to Get a

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person was working downtown. ... It was a job, but it was a fun job..."

"People would come in and say 'You're Hispanic, aren't

you?" she said, laughing. "They couldn't believe a black

Gloria Washington, co-founder of the Texas African American Museum, points to a

portrait of Abraham Lincoln at her museum at the Unique Shopping Mall on July 13,

Gloria Washington, co-founder of the museum, said a lot

cited is the community's interest in changing the name of

"It would be fruitful if the name did change, but the name

"I mean, look at Earl Campbell," she said, pointing to the

has changed in Tyler over the years. One example she

Tyler ISD's high schools, and Tyler ISD discussing

changing the name of Robert E. Lee High School.

of a school doesn't define who I am," she said.

display about the football great in the front of the

2018. (J. Edward Moreno/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

texasevents365@gmail.com.

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museum. "He went to John Tyler High School, and the name of the school didn't stop him from pursuing his career." The museum is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from

Those wishing to contribute to the museum can email

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