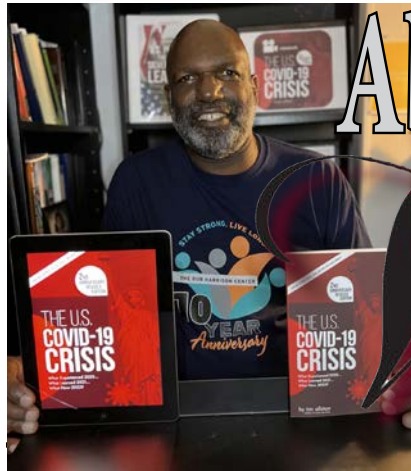


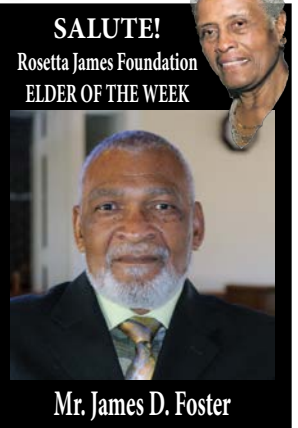
# Center Kicks Off MLK Events with Author - p. 6

**FREE**



## About XBB Variant, p. 3

Friday  
January 6, 2023  
Vol. 9, No. 18  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



**SALUTE!**  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK

Mr. James D. Foster



*"You've got to learn to leave the table when love's no longer being served." - Nina Simone*

## Rosetta James Foundation Announces 2023 Honorees

The Rosetta James Foundation will hold its first "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration since the COVID-19 pandemic that forced the shutdown of numerous places and events in March 2020.

The 2023 event will recognize 18 men and women (some posthumously) who have demonstrated volunteerism continuously beyond their 70th birthdays. Thus, the 15th annual day gala will be held March 11 at the Von Braun Center's South Hall at 12 noon. The Foundation also awards scholarships to college students who maintain an active collegiate schedule that includes volunteerism.

Honorees for 2023 include



Mrs. Edna E. Davis Brown



Mrs. Maureen Davis Cathey



Mr. Allen Cothron



Mrs. Marie Ann Waters Cothron



Mrs. Ida Crawford



Mrs. Gloria Dawson



Mrs. Ruby Dickson



Mrs. Bettye Dixie



Mrs. Sarah Drake



Mrs. Mary Ann Flowers



Mrs. Ruby Ford



Parker Griffith, M.D.



Mrs. Bhavani Kakani



Mr. Richard Knight



Dr. Prince Preyer



Dr. Horace Rice



Dr. Cynthia Smith



Mr. LaVern Spearman

the following: Mrs. Edna E. Davis Brown (posthumously), former nurse's aide; Mrs.

Maureen Davis Cathey, retired student account supervisor; Mr. Allen Cothron, retired

Army education facilitator; Mrs. Marie Ann Waters Cothron, retired Spanish

teacher; Mrs. Ida Crawford, retired public school librarian; Mrs. Gloria Dawson (post-

humous), retired educator; Mrs. Ruby Dickson, former administrative assistant; Mrs. Bettye Dixie, retired career counselor; Mrs. Sarah Drake, retired educator; Mrs. Mary Ann Flowers, retired educator; Mrs. Ruby Ford, retired accountant; Dr. Parker Griffith, physician; Mrs. Bhavani Kakani, community and health advocate; Mr. Richard Knight, veterans advocate; Dr. Prince Preyer, retired educator/commissioner; Dr. Horace Rice, retired educator/arbitrator; Dr. Cynthia Smith, former educator/administrator; and Mr. LaVern Spearman, retired senior physicist.

Visit [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org).

## Globetrotters to Return to Huntsville

Residents of the Rocket City will have an opportunity to witness one of the world's most popular exhibition basketball teams.

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters will appear in Huntsville, Ala., at the Von Braun Center's Propst Arena on Sunday, January 29, at 7 p.m.



## The Valley Weekly

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Washington in a Minute, Page 2  
Preston Brown's Champion Game Plan, Page 3  
"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 4  
Valley Events, Page 4  
tim allston: Perspectives, Page 5  
Millennial Moment, Page 5  
Spotlight on Our Elders, Page 7

## Aeolians Performance Set for HMA

The Aeolians of Oakwood University will perform in the Great Hall of the Huntsville Museum of Art at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Attending the performance is free, but seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Museum admission is required to enter the galleries and view our current exhibitions.

The Aeolians of Oak-

wood University was originally organized in 1946 by the late Dr. Eva B. Dykes. Since its inception, the choir has traveled widely, touching the hearts of both young and old with its inspirational singing. Aeolian concerts present a repertoire of choral music that ranges from the Baroque era to the twentieth century.



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The Valley Weekly, LLC

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least **TWO** weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com). Items published do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the editorial staff, and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions.

**The Valley Weekly****Ad Rates Single Issue**

Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,000
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$800
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$600
Half Page	Horizontal	
	5x10 inches	\$400
	Vertical	
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Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$200
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$100
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$50
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$50/Flat Fee
	(4 col. in. minimum=\$24)	
	6 Month/1 Yr.-10% & 20% Discount!	

# Rosetta James Foundation Announces 2023 Scholarships Applications

The Rosetta James Foundation (RJF) is accepting applications for its annual scholarship award program until Friday, February 17. Awards will be presented at the "Honoring Our Elders" event at 12 noon on Saturday, March 11, at the Von Braun Center South Hall.

The scholarships are awarded to deserving students who are committed to community volunteerism as part of their college experience. Scholarships are not awarded to graduate students.

E-mail: [info@rosetta-jamesfoundation.org](mailto:info@rosetta-jamesfoundation.org); or Mail by Friday, February 17, to: Gary T. Whitley, Jr., Rosetta James Foundation

Scholarship Chair, P.O. Box 17452, Huntsville, AL 35810.

For additional information and a detailed list of criteria, visit [rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://rosettajamesfoundation.org).

## RJF Endowed Scholarships:

**Dr. Charles E. Cannon Scholarship** (Alabama A&M University);

**Mr. & Mrs. Jerry (Butch) Damson Scholarship** Fund;

**McKinley James Scholarship** (J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College);

**Rosetta James Scholarship** for Alabama A&M University;

**Dr. Harriett Littlepage Scholarship** Fund for Alabama A&M University;

**Vanessa Williams McCarthy "Yes I Can" Memorial Scholarship** for Alabama A&M University;

**The Pugh-Slater Scholarship Fund** (J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College);

**Kenneth Ellington Smoot, Sr. Memorial Scholarship** (J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College)



## Greek Fashion Business Offering Scholarship Support Through RJF

The Rosetta James Foundation will award additional scholarships in 2023, thanks to generous support from Be Fashionably Greek.

Since 2021, in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, Be Fashionably Greek has donated more than \$60,000 to sustain scholarship support through the Rosetta James Foundation.

Be Fashionably Greek is an innovative source for classy Greek apparel that is owned by Mykela Williams Marshall. The company routinely features new paraphernalia and attractive deals online at [www.befashionablygreek.com](http://www.befashionablygreek.com).

Meanwhile, the Rosetta James Foundation pays tribute to student volunteers in addition to its primary mission of recognizing individuals over 70 years of age who are active volunteers within the community.



Previous scholarship recipients have included some of the most gifted students that the Tennessee Valley region has to offer to the world.

They represent a desire and respect for scholarship that is only tempered by their passion for serving others.

For additional information about scholarship opportunities or to download an application, visit [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Gary T. Whitley, Jr., ([gtwhitleyjr@yahoo.com](mailto:gtwhitleyjr@yahoo.com)) serves as scholarship chair.

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*"I want someone who's qualified, who has a qualification to character and the integrity to do the things that have to be done to save this world. - Edward Brooke*



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS

**NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME**  
2501 Carmichael Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

*Funeral service for MRS. CHARLES-ETTA BRAKE SMITH (b. 1946) was held Friday, December 30, at Blue Spring Road Church of Christ with Pastor Floyd Rogers officiating.*

*Funeral service for MR. EDWIN B. DONELSON (b. 1957) - "AKILI and Old School" - was held Friday, December 30, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.*

*Funeral service for MR. RANDY DARNELL MALONE (b. 1956) was held Thursday, December 29, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.*

*Funeral service for MR. LEONARD B. PARKS (b. 1961) was held Wednesday, December 28, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.*

**ROYAL FUNERAL HOME**  
4315 Oakwood Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

*Funeral service for MS. JACQUELINE COOPER (b. 1956) was held Tuesday, January 3, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.).*

*Funeral service for MR. EUGENE CARTHEN, SR. (b. 1939) was held Saturday, December 31, at Pleasant Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (15439 Hastings Road, Athens, Ala.) with Reverend Marshall White officiating.*

*Funeral service MS. BARBARA S. GRIMES (b. 1960) was held Saturday, December 31, at the St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church (1393 Swancott Rd, Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Buford Moore officiating.*

*Funeral service for MRS. MADGIE MARIE MATKINS (b. 1943) will be 12 p.m., Thursday, December 29, at the Morris Chapel Primitive Baptist Church (2135 Winchester Rd. NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Derrick Langford officiating.*

*Funeral service for PROFESSOR WILEY JOSEPH HENDERSON, JR. (b. 1934) was held Wednesday, December 28, at the Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church (1919 Brandon Town Rd NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.*

**SERENITY FUNERAL HOME**  
2505 University Drive NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693

*Funeral service for MR. JORDAN MYLES (b. 2009) was held Sunday, December 18, at Serenity Funeral Home, 2505 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.*

About the XBB COVID-19 Variant

A new coronavirus variant, which has been named XBB, has now become the dominant form of COVID-19 in the northeastern part of the country and is expected to become the dominant variant worldwide.

The XBB variant, which accounted for only 11% of COVID cases in the region just two weeks ago, now makes up over half of all cases (52.6%). This is higher than the 18% of cases XBB accounts for across the entire U.S.



“The sudden increase in XBB is pretty striking,” Dr. Shira Doron of Tufts Medical Center says. “I wasn’t expecting it because it had been smoldering on the chart for a while.”

Here’s everything you

need to know about the variant:

- 1) It can evade immunity.
- 2) The immunocompromised face a greater risk.
- 3) Little is known about

the side effects.

4) The symptoms are similar to other variants. Typical symptoms of the Omicron subvariants include: sore throat, hoarse voice, cough, fatigue, nasal congestion, runny nose, headache and muscle aches.

5) Certain factors may be contributing to the spike.

6) You can protect yourself.

Cara Jones  
- Blackdoctor.org

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN



KNOW YOUR WHY BEFORE YOUR WHAT

In Philippians 3:14, Paul says, “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

We all need a sense of progress to continue achieving our goals in life. Whether it be our jobs, our education, exercise at the gym, or even our ministry.

It can be hard to show up again and again when something

is not working. We all need to see some kind of progress. Therefore, if progress is essential to our mental, physical and spiritual growth, how do we make progress?

Most of us would say that effort produces progress. For example, how do you expect to pass a test that you never study for?

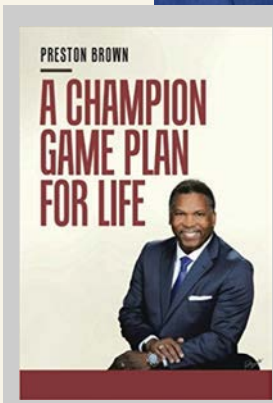
We need to apply effort to produce progress. But remember, effort alone will not produce progress.

We also need direction. We need to know

if we are headed in the right direction. Whenever you find yourself feeling frustrated, stressed and burned out, perhaps you are pointing your efforts in the wrong direction.

I have found that the best way to point your efforts in the right direction is to discover your “why”.

When you begin to realize why you are



doing what you are doing, you will remain headed in the right direction, and that’s when you begin to see real progress!

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

Please feel free to order a copy of my book, A Champion Game Plan for Life,” from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**Thru January 2023**

Huntsville Museum of Art  
Presents  
"Donato Giancola"  
Downtown Huntsville  
Huntsville, Ala.

**Thru January 29**

Winter Park  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala.  
TheOrionHuntsville.com

**January 10**

"2023 Doing Business with NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center"  
Speaker: David Brock  
Toyota Training Room  
3rd Floor of Chamber Building - \$10, \$20  
225 Church Street NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9-10:30 a.m.  
Contact: Jennifer Prewitt,  
(256) 535-2010

**January 13-15**

Comedian Kevin Fredericks (aka KevOnStage)  
Stand Up Live Huntsville  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(6:30 p.m.-1/15)  
7 p.m.

**January 15**

Winter Park at the Orion  
11 a.m.

**January 16**

"Meet the Players"  
Huntsville Hurricanes  
1300 Meridian Street N  
Huntsville, Ala.  
2 p.m.

**January 19**

"Terrariums: Bringing Gardening Indoors"  
Huntsville Botanical Gardens  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue  
Huntsville, Ala.  
Members, \$60; Non-members, \$110  
6-7:30 p.m.

**January 20**

"Clue: On Stage"  
Playhouse  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

**January 21**

"Nature Needs Our Help"  
Nature Academy  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 830-4447  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

"The Encore Concert: Kristoffer LeShaun Live"  
The Electric Belle Stovehouse  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

**January 23**

Alabama Legislative Update  
The Jackson Center  
6001 Moquin Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.  
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

**February 7**

"Garden Planning"  
Nature Academy  
Huntsville Botanical

Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 830-4447  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**February 10-18**

"Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind"  
Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7-8:30 p.m.

**February 11**

Music Explorer's Club  
Huntsville Symphony Orchestra  
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
erica@hso.org  
(256) 539-4818  
10:15 a.m.

**March 25**

Garden Prep for Spring  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
\$35-\$60  
10 a.m.-12 noon  
www.hsvbg.org

Huntsville Havoc  
"Military Night"  
Von Braun Center  
7 p.m.

**April 1**

The 3rd Annual Women's Expo Event  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

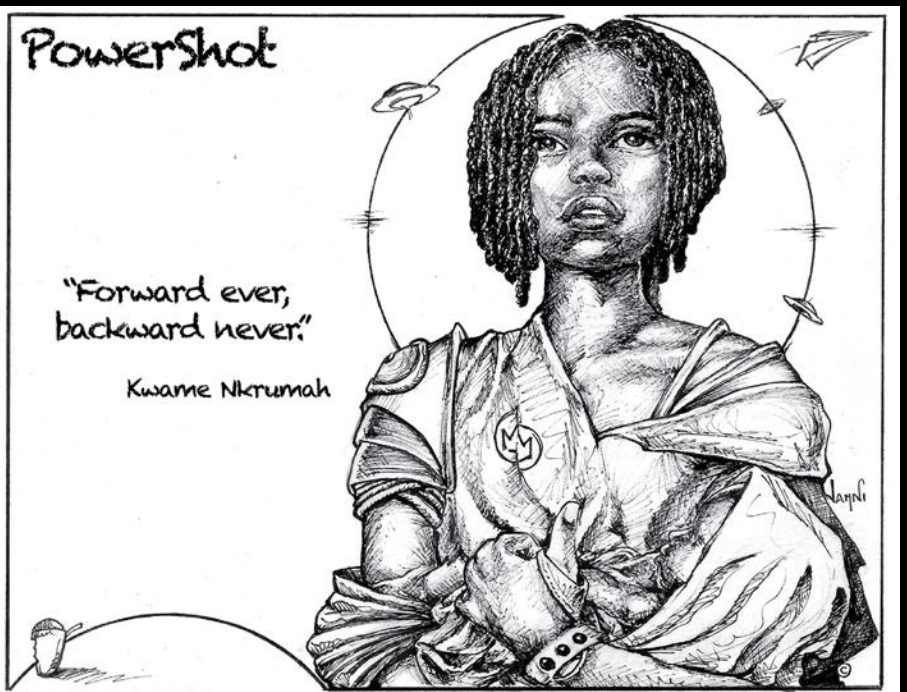
**May 20**

Rocket City BBQ & Soul Fest  
6001 Pulaski Pike NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
10 a.m.-11 p.m.

PowerShot

"Forward ever,  
backward never."

Kwame Nkrumah



## MAYHEM IS EXPENSIVE. ALLSTATE IS NOT.



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*"Know how to listen, and you will profit even  
from those who talk badly."*

- Plutarch



# Going to Find Out!

Question: How many times have you been watching something, or heard about something and said, “Hmm, I could have done that?” Your mind starts churning, thinking about the things you could “possibly” do, or would desire to do. Well...What’s stopping you from doing those things?



One of my favorite speakers said, “You’ve got to stay here until you go! Why not see how much you can do?” (Jim Rohn) I’m asking you, “Why not? Why not push past your lack to get to your abundance? What’s it going to take to put your thoughts down on paper, focus, and make them become some-



**DLC Accepting Applications for 15th Cohort**  
[tnvalleydlc.com/applications](http://tnvalleydlc.com/applications)

## Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell



thing real?”  
I’ve become this person that is willing to push pass the odds, and my fears. I have developed the mindset, “I may not be able to, but I’m going to find out!” Ever since I’ve absorbed that, spoken that, and believed that, with faith, there has been NOTHING I’ve thought I could do that wasn’t possible! Now, that

doesn’t mean that I am the best at doing it! It doesn’t mean I am the quickest, strongest, or the smartest! However, these things I keep attempting, and succeeding with, lead to other things, other connections, and other possibilities I have no clue existed! It has opened my eyes up to a different world! A world that has been here the whole time! Oh, the possibilities! You too, are existing in this same world! Stop just existing, and live! Go find out!

Go! Try! Seek! Attempt to do those things that come to mind. One step at a time! You’ll discover a whole new you! It’s so exciting! I promise!  
Come with me on this journey. I’m Going to Find Out!  
Have a wonderful Friday!  
God loves you, and so do I!  
He’s given you a gift. Open it!!

- The Pretty Pour



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A New Generation Of Service



### The Titanic Re-named “Herschel Walker”

“... And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell ...” - Matthew 14:26b-27

Finally, the last 2022 midterm election race is over, ...  
... And the loser sank like Captain Edward Smith sank his Titanic 110 years ago!  
Herschel Walker sank his U.S. Senate race the same way that Smith sank his Titanic: Focus your attention on the top, ignore the strength below the surface, and it can kill you.  
In 1912, Smith only steered clear of that “tip of the iceberg”; but the Titanic crashed into that 90% icy mass below the surface. Smith and 1,496 passengers drowned.  
Similarly, NBC News’ “Inside the turbulent, doomed campaign of Herschel Walker,” detailed how this first-time political candidate and his wife Julie Blanchard mimicked Smith and focused only on his visible past achievements.  
But they ignored who was below the campaign’s surface: the “leaders from the middle” - veteran campaign managers, consultants, and advisors.  
Blanchard: “He’s Herschel Walker, . . . “He’s the best candidate you’ll ever see.” Walker: “I’ve been through tougher, . . . This is not tough. We got this.”  
While Walker viewed his celebrity as the campaign’s strength, his campaign staff saw his adherence to that belief as a core problem.

Anonymous campaign staffers revealed that he was hard to manage; his “poor public speaking skills and penchant for veering off message” turned off potential big donors; and winner Raphael Warnock out-fundraised and outspent Walker three to one.  
For example, in the two weeks before Walker announced his candidacy in August 2021, consultants “assembled a 500-page dossier (of) possible business scandals, controversial quotes . . . and allegations of domestic violence and bizarre behavior.”  
Yet, he ran regardless and ignored veteran staffers.

Those un-earthed allegations sunk and ultimately drowned him.  
Leaders from the middle such as Walker’s managers, advisors, and political consultants “make sure the trains run on time.” When you and I ignore such influences and relationships, we too become groundless and lack the foundation that Jesus referenced in the earlier parable from Matthew.  
Watch closely and don’t ignore what’s below your public surfaces such as spouses, coworkers, and true friends.  
Don’t let that fate of Herschel Walker and Captain Edward Smith be yours.

Tim Allston  
Certified Life Coach &  
Amazon Best Selling Author-Publisher  
Leading from the Middle



# THE VALLEY WEEKLY ALL FOR THE FAMILY Holiday Blues

Oh, the unspeakable joy and happiness that have filled many of our hearts as we celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas this year.

Our homes, neighborhoods, streets, etc., have been beautifully arrayed with breath-taking decorations, family and friends who have gathered from near and far to share special meals, attend church services and cultural events, build family bonds,

and some of us stopped to count our blessings for all God continues to bestow upon us.

Holidays often bring about elated emotions and sadness.

Some refer to this as "Holiday Blues."

The following tips may help ease the stress associated with "Holiday Blues."

- Forget perfection, try to be realistic about life.

- Meditate and pray to help calm your anxieties
- Stay connected to family and friends
- Read greeting cards
- Push yourself to get and be active
- Consider

volunteering

- Cut back on commitments, just say no!
- Focus on what matters
- Focus on today, not yesterday
- Try doing something new
- Minimize time with difficult family members and friends
- Stick to a budget
- Practice self-health care, keep your healthy habits.



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

- Get some exercise.
- Look forward, not backwards
- Learn to grieve
- Give thanks to almighty God for blessing you to witness another holiday season.

Sources:

Healthline.com  
psychologytoday.com

## NAAACC Meetings

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.

## Huntsville City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

*"It is true that the more one learns, the less one knows."*

- James Baldwin -

## Bob Harrison Center Kicking Off King Day Weekend with Local Best-selling Author

Kick off Huntsville-Madison County's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday Weekend Celebration with a book-signing event featuring Huntsville's three-time Amazon Best-selling Author.

On Thursday, January 12, at 6 p.m., Huntsville's Bob Harrison Senior Wellness & Advocacy Center and its Book Club will present "An Evening with Tim Allston - Huntsville's 3-Time Amazon Best-selling Author."

Allston will share excerpts, answer your questions, and personally autograph your copy of his latest book, THE U.S. COVID-19 CRISIS, available



now in print, digital, and audiobook versions.

"Proceeds will benefit the Center's 'Same Book/ Different Pages' Book Club," stated Book Club moderator Ms. Theresa Cawthorn. "This book

is currently in the top 1 percent of Amazon's worldwide best-selling books' rankings."

This event is free to the public, and light refreshments will be served.

- Come and tour the Bob Harrison Center, located at 6156 Pulaski Pike in Huntsville; also
- Consider joining its monthly Book Club; and
- Get your personally-autographed copy of THE U.S. COVID-19 CRISIS: What Experienced 2020 . . . What Learned 2021 . . . What Now 2022? from this author from Huntsville/Madison County.

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November-March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm





Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## James D. Foster

A native of Birmingham, Ala., James D. Foster (James d foster) is a graduate of Carver High School. He enrolled in Alabama A&M University and earned a degree in history and government. He later completed two graduate degrees, one in urban studies/city planning and the other in personnel management. He did further study in business management at the University of Virginia Charlotte, Va. The administrator also served two years in the Army with assignments in both Europe and Vietnam.

He is a retiree from the federal government following some 38-plus years of service, primarily in the human resources area (civilian personnel administration). He also served two years as Redstone military educational officer; however, he actually began his career in the field of electronics-missile radar systems.

His career is punctuated by a two-year tour in Korea 1976-78 as the personnel training liaison officer. He also served a special split assignment between Headquarters Army Materiel Command, Alexandria, Va., and Redstone Arse-

nal from 1983-88, directing and coordinating the development of three high level employee development programs.

Foster has been the recipient of several awards for his contributions to his professional work environment, community, civic groups and other membership organizations. He is a life member of the Alabama A&M Alumni Association, once serving as president of the local chapter; life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (served as Polemarch and on various committees); life member of Blacks In Government (BIG); and life member of NAACP.

He has tirelessly given of his time and support to the Huntsville Tennis Association, women's athletic programs at Alabama A&M University; various ministries at Holy Cross-



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, where he serves as treasurer and acting junior warden of the Vestry; and many other organization programs and initiatives.

His hobbies consist of golf, collecting old music and old music machines, and future restoration of another antique auto. He is married to the former Velma Marie Sales of Huntsville, Ala., and they have three children: Jarvis, a son, and Deidre and Chris, daughters. He is now the proud grandfather of Landon Woodworth Foster.

## Black Law Enforcement Execs to Hold Scholarship Fundraiser

The Alabama Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) will hold its 4th Annual Scholarship Gala Saturday, January 14, at the Westin Hotel, 6800 Governors Drive West, at 6 p.m.

NOBLE's Black Tie Event & Silent Auction is a signature event to raise money for scholarships and community events. The national organization has 60 chapters and over 4,000 members worldwide.

NOBLE is also considered "the conscience of law enforcement."

For additional information, contact CPT Jeff Rice of the Huntsville Police Department, at jeff.rice@huntsvilleal.gov.

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**JANUARY 6 - MICHAELA DEPRINCE** is a Sierra Leonean-American ballet dancer. She rose to fame after starring in the documentary *First Position* in 2011, following her and other young ballet dancers as they prepared to compete at the Youth America Grand Prix. She formerly danced with the Dance Theatre of Harlem as the youngest dancer in the history of the company. - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



## This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, January 8, 2023

First Sunday After  
the Epiphany

(Track 2, Year A)

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valley-weeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valley-weeklyllc.com).



# City Focuses on Numerous Transportation Projects for 2023

Huntsville, now Alabama's largest city by population, continues to grow by 464 new residents per month. With growth comes opportunities, as well as challenges, especially where transportation infrastructure is concerned.

Mayor Tommy Battle has long advocated for reducing travel time for commuters, no matter what part of the Huntsville metro area they're from. Less driving means more time spent with families and friends.

"Since I took office, one of my biggest priorities has been to maintain that average 18-to-20-minute workday commute," Mayor Battle said. "Roads are essential to continued growth and quality of life. Keeping everything flowing is key."

Fortunately, the City's planners and engineers are always looking for trouble spots and how to remedy them. The City also collaborates with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as well as regional, state and federal partners to secure funding for critical road needs.

Here are five ways the City moved transportation infrastructure forward in 2022, as well as instances of how infrastructure will be improved in 2023:

**1. Restore Our Roads Phase II** - The second phase of the Restore Our Roads initiative tackles seven projects that will reshape how commuters move around the City for decades to come. With a price tag of about \$800 million, the projects are a joint venture between the City of Madison and Madison County Commission as well as Gov. Kay Ivey and the Alabama



Department of Transportation (ALDOT).

The second phase includes construction of the new Resolute Way interchange at Interstate 565, just west of Research Park Boulevard, providing improved access to Redstone Arsenal, Gateway Park and Madison Boulevard/Governors West, and the East Arsenal Connector road from the Sparkman Drive exit at I-565 to Patton Road. *Additional projects include:* Widening U.S. 72 West from Providence Main to County Line Road in Huntsville and Madison; Widening I-565 from County Line Road to Wall Triana Highway; Widening U.S. 53 in north Madison County from Taurus Drive to Old Railroad Bed Road; U.S. 72 East from I-565 to east of Shields Road; and Improvements to the I-565/Memorial Parkway interchange

**2. Street resurfacing and construction** - Drivers often talk about Huntsville's main arterial roads (e.g., Interstate 565, Memorial Parkway and University Drive), but collector roads and surface streets also play a significant role in how traffic moves. To that end, Huntsville is allocating \$19 million to resurface 103 City streets in 2022-23.

The City will spend an additional \$70 million during the same fiscal year on new construction projects

that will add capacity to City streets.

**3. Forward movement on Northern Bypass** - At the tail end of 2021, the City entered an agreement with ALDOT to finish construction of the Northern Bypass, a loop road that will connect Alabama 53 with U.S. 72. This year, the project moved forward with 95% of the design and right-of-way acquisitions completed. When ready, the Northern Bypass will take pressure off

Memorial Parkway while opening new opportunities for commercial and residential development in North Huntsville.

**4. Projects winding down, others ramping up** - 2022 saw the completion of improvements to Zierdt Road. Additionally, Phase I of Martin Road improvements are substantially complete. Also nearing the finish line are improvements to Research Park Boulevard and Madison Pike, which should ease traffic congestion for the thousands of Research Park employees and those visiting MidCity. This year also saw the opening of a new exit, MidCity Way, completed shortly before the opening of The Orion Amphitheater.

The exit takes pressure off University Drive by putting concertgoers almost directly into The Orion's parking lot.

Looking ahead, Martin Road Phase II will begin in 2023, providing easier access to and from Redstone Arsenal via a five-lane road. Also set to wrap up is Greenbrier Parkway in West Huntsville, which will connect I-565 to I-65 in Limestone County. Finally, ALDOT will begin construction on Mastin Lake Road overpass in early 2023.

**5. Public transit push** - Transit officials also worked to revamp the Transit Improvement Plan and held several public stakeholder meetings to solicit input on everything from hours of operation to routes.

Those meetings occurred as Huntsville prepared to break ground on a new transfer station that will accommodate larger buses and enhance riders' security and comfort. Looking into the future, Planning officials are optimistic about adding Bus-Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors as a sort of litmus test for a light rail system.

- [Huntsvilleal.gov](http://Huntsvilleal.gov)

## Drake, Calhoun Expand GOAL to Northwest

Drake State Community & Technical College and Calhoun Community College are bringing their GOAL program to the Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Recreation Center. GOAL, which stands for Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners, is a free program designed to make people employable.

"One amazing partnership with a local community center can change the future of families seeking career advancement and education," said Drake State President Dr. Patricia Sims. "Drake State is committed to serve more students by bringing quality instruction closer to residents who need it most. Expanding the GOAL program to the Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Recreation Center will allow us to meet individual students where they are, removing barriers that prevent them from reimagining their futures."

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