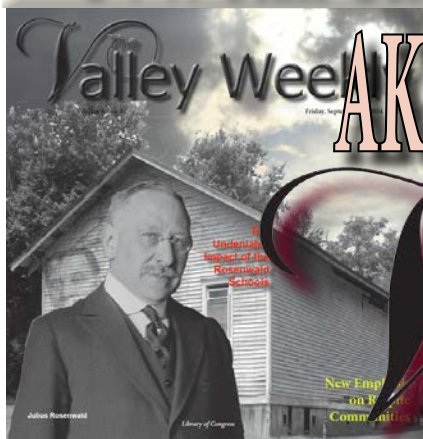


TVW Staff Celebrate Popular Newspaper's Tenth Anniversary - p. 7

FREE



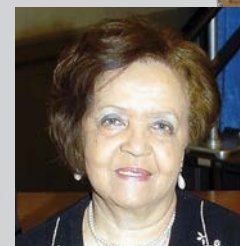
AKAs Announce 65th Debutante Ball!

Friday
February 9, 2024
Vol. 10, No. 23
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

The Valley Weekly

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SALUTE!!!

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Alice Sams

"Whoever is in control of the hell in your life, is your devil." - John Henrik Clarke



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter announces the 65th Debutante Presentation and Ball, where 29 Prospective Debutantes will be presented to the Huntsville community on February 16, at the Von Braun Center Saturn Ballroom at 7 p.m. This year's theme is "Evolving with Time: An Evening of Moments to Remember." Shirley B. Clemons is the chair, and Latoyia M. Clemons serves as co-chair. Throughout the debutante season, the young ladies participated in the Get-Acquainted Tea, Mother Daughter Brunch, community service projects, enhancement training sessions and a multimedia project. Epsilon Gamma Omega will award scholarships on the night of the ball, as well as recognize debutantes from the first Debutante Ball in 1957. Tonya S. Wood is the president of the Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter.

'Go Red' Affair This Weekend

The Central North Alabama Alumnae (CNAA) Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and the Rouge Foundation will present "ROUGE - A Go Red Event: The Silver Anniversary Collection."

The event will be held at the Von Braun Center, East Hall 1, in Downtown Huntsville on February 10, 6-11:30 p.m.

This night of elegance will feature community leaders, business owners and influencers who are selected as model ambassadors to advocate for heart health. Proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association as well as fund CNAA's programs.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, is committed to advocating for local and international communities to bring awareness of various program initiatives. The CNAA Chapter proudly serves Lawrence, Limestone and Morgan counties.

Wear radiant red cocktail attire, put on dancing shoes and preparing for a night of fashion, fun, and fundraising for a tremendous cause!

Visit cnaadst.org/services-5. Event sponsorships are available through The Rouge Foundation. You may contact therougefoundation@gmail.com for more information.

Rosetta James Foundation Still Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Rosetta James Foundation (RJF) is accepting applications for its annual scholarship award program until Friday, February 16. Awards will be presented at the "Honoring Our Elders" event at 12 noon on Saturday, March 9, at The Jackson Center.

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.

Scholarship co-chairs JaLissa Williams Cothron and Morgan Saintjones will be carefully selecting recipients of several Rosetta

James Foundation endowed scholarships.

Among the endowed and named scholarships are the following: Dr. Charles E. Cannon Scholarship (Alabama A&M University-AAMU); Mr. & Mrs. Jerry (Butch) Damson Scholarship Fund; Dr. Harriett Littlepage Scholarship Fund for

AAMU; Vanessa Williams McCarthy "Yes I Can" Memorial Scholarship for AAMU; Carey Link Memorial Scholarship; William Huston, Sr. Scholarship (new); and several others.

Visit www.rosettajamesfoundation.org for a link to the scholarship criteria and application.

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly
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Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,500
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$1,200
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$900
Half Page	Horizontal	\$600
	Vertical	
Fourth Page	5x10 inches	\$600
	10x5 inches	
Eighth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
	2.5x5 inches	
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
	1 col.x1 inch	
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

The Valley Weekly
Washington
One Minute



by Ron Hamm

Here is what's happening in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, this week:

1. **CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in session this week, although the House has a short week due to the House Democrats' 3-day retreat, which started on Wednesday at the Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg, VA (the House GOP retreat is March 13-15 at the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV). The Senate started voting on Wednesday on the \$118.3 billion Ukraine/Israel supplemental spending bill, which includes the Murphy/Lankford/Sinema bipartisan deal on border and immigration restrictions. The House will vote on a \$17.6 billion Israel-only aid bill, a Resolution of Impeachment against Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas (the first cabinet member to be impeached since 1876), and a censure resolution against Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN), brought by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA). The House may also take up a bill that would raise the cap for the state and local tax (SALT) deduction from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for married couples who file taxes jointly and make up to \$500,000.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** The President and First Lady were in Los Angeles on Saturday to meet with Black leaders in the entertainment industry and then traveled to Las Vegas for campaign events on Sunday, ahead of Nevada's Presidential Primary on Tuesday (the Nevada GOP held its own caucuses last Thursday in which Donald Trump competed, while Nikki Haley competed in the Tuesday primary). The White House announced last week that the President will visit East Palestine, OH, later this month to meet with local officials and residents displaced by the Feb. 2023 release of toxic chemicals from a Norfolk Southern train derailment. On Tuesday, the President and Vice President hosted a Black History Month reception at the White House, on Wednesday the President headed to New York for campaign events, and on Thursday he will spoke at the House Democratic Retreat in Leesburg, VA. On Friday, he will host a meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the White House. Bloomberg News is reporting that the President will submit his Fiscal Year 2025 Budget to Congress on March 11 (4 days after his State of the Union Address).

3. **SUPREME COURT.** On Thursday, the Supreme Court heard the case of Trump v. Anderson to decide whether the Colorado Supreme Court erred in ordering former

President Trump excluded from the 2024 presidential primary ballot.

4. **JANUARY JOBS REPORT.** On Friday, the Labor Department reported that the U.S. economy added a stunning 353,000 jobs in January and the unemployment rate clocked in at 3.7%, beating Wall Street predictions of a gain of only

185,000 jobs.

5. **HIGHER EDUCATION.** On January 31, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce approved the H.R. 6951, the College Cost Reduction Act (CCRA), the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act (BWPA, H.R. 6585) and the A Stronger Workforce for America Act (SWAA, H.R.

6655). These three important bills affect higher education institutions and their students await floor action in the House of Representatives.

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The Board of Directors of the Rosetta James Foundation and
Technology Management Training Group, Inc.
- present -

The 15th Annual Rosetta James Foundation
"Honoring Our Elders"
Celebration



BRENDA BEALE RUFUS GILMORE GREGORY MILEY LINDA SPALLA MARY STRONG MITCHELL WALKER

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Twelve O'Clock at Noon

The Jackson Center - Huntsville, Alabama - \$75

www.rosettajamesfoundation.org

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- John Henrik Clarke

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
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DEATHS**



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Funeral service for MS. NEDA WARD (b. 1945) will be held Saturday, February 10, at St. James Primitive Baptist Church, 1093 Fairbanks Street, Huntsville, Ala., at 1 p.m.

Funeral service for MR. XAVIER BRADFORD (b. 1993) was held Sunday, February 4, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. LA-RON DAWSON (b. 2001) was held Saturday, February 3, at Pentecostal Lighthouse, 6107 Blue Spring Road, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for MS. DIANA ELLINGTON (b. 1968) was held Saturday, February 3, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189
www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral service for MR. DONNELL ROBINSON (b. 1954) will be Saturday, February 10, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel at 12 noon.

Funeral service for MR. MELVIN KELLEY (b. 1937) was Friday, February 2, at Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, with Reverend Henry Brown, Pastor of Gurley CME Church, officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW
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www.royalfh.com

The funeral service for MRS. DORA LEE PINCHON (b. 1946) will be 12:30 p.m., Saturday, February 10, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, AL 35810).

The funeral service for MRS. DOLORES EVON BELL (b. 1930) was Tuesday, February 6, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Father Joe Lubrano officiating.

The funeral service for MR. JACQUES RONTI COLINS was Sunday, February 4, at the First Seventh Day Adventist Church (1303 Evangel Drive NW Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Debleaire Snell officiating.

Funeral service for MR. TOMMY LEE CHAPMAN, JR. (b. 1961) was Saturday, February 3, at the True Light Church of God in Christ (6380 Pulaski Pike N.W. Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Gregory McGlathery officiating.

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



"Overcoming the What-Ifs"

Exodus 4:1, Moses says, "What if they don't believe me or listen to me?"

For many of us, it's not so much about what we have, it's more about how we use what we have. So many people have so much potential and do not know what they are capable of until God reveals it to them. And the way He reveals

it to us is through our prayers and our circumstances. If we walk in faith, everything that we need is within our reach. In Exodus 4:2, God asked Moses what was in his hand. Moses replied that it was a staff. So, God is saying to Moses that he already has what he needs in his hand. All he needs to do is learn how to use it. So often we won't use the tools or talent that God has already given

us. When you begin to think that you don't have what you need, you will begin to believe it. That's why we need to learn to speak life to our circumstances

and our situations and start believing in the promises of God, which is "I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). So, when people don't believe in you, believe in yourself. God was telling Moses, and all of us, to not let the what-ifs keep us from our destinies. Don't let the what-ifs keep you from being all that God has called you to be



and don't let the what-ifs keep you from your blessings from God.

Prayer: Dear God, give us the strength that we need to overcome the doubts and fears that we have.


Question: What are some doubts or fears that you have about yourself that are holding you back?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life* at amazon.com, Westbow Books or if you have a PayPal account, email me at preston-brown81@gmail.com, and I will send you an autographed copy.

NEXT WEEK:
"I Will Not Be Moved"

"If you don't understand white supremacy/racism, everything that you do understand will only confuse you."

- Neely Fuller



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The Valley Weekly
VALLEY
EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

February 9

Crafting Social: A Special Galentine's Event
 Burritt on the Mountain
 Huntsville, Ala. - 5:30 p.m.

February 10

All Girls State Chess Championship
 Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering - 9 a.m.

ADC Membership Breakfast

Bob Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center
 9 a.m.

February 15

Candidate Forum for Madison County Commissioner District 6
 Sponsor: Madison County Chapter-Alabama New South Coalition

February 29

Student Oratorical Contest
 Sponsor: Madison County Chapter-Alabama New South Coalition - TBA

March 3

Bus Trip to Bloody Sunday
 Madison County Chapter of the Alabama New South Coalition
 Madison County District 6 Office
 Hi-Lo Circle (Near Drake State) - 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

March 9

Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration/Day Gala
 Huntsville, Ala.
 12 noon

Spelman College Glee Club
 Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church
 228 Church Street
 Downtown Huntsville
 4 p.m.

Concert
 Lawrence Brownlee
 Host:
 Huntsville Chamber Music Guild
 Huntsville, Ala.

March 11-15

Cove Martial Arts Academy
 K-5th Grades (\$250)
 Owens Cross Roads, Ala.
 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

March 22-24

The 4th Annual Women's Expo Huntsville
 Von Braun Center
 Huntsville, Ala.

May 4

Donate Life Alabama
 Donor Dash for Life 5K
 Veterans Park
 Hoover, Ala.
 8 a.m.

May 10

Exhale Huntsville - A Mother's Love Girls Night Out
 Huemanity Studio
 Huntsville, Ala.
 7 p.m.

May 18-19

Rocket City BBQ & Soul Fest
 National Speleological Society

PowerShot

"The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are"

J.P. Morgan



"I think that's what really a substantial work is: it's forever. It's the truth now and it was the truth then, and it will be the truth tomorrow."

- Abbey Lincoln

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"You are young, gifted, and black. In the year 1964, I, for one can think of no more dynamic combination that a person might be."

- Lorraine Hansberry

FEBRUARY 9 - MICHAEL COLYAR - Michael K. Colyar is an American actor, comedian, entertainer, voiceover artist, television/radio personality, and author. Born in Chicago, Colyar attended Olive-Harvey junior college and later Chicago State University. He is the author of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to The White House, I Knocked on the Door and a Brother Answered, which was published in August 2012. Colyar began embarking on his 100 City tour of "Michael Colyar's Momma" in June 2018.



- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org

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Rock in My Shoe ...

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Have you ever been on a trail or been outdoors having a great time? You come home, yank your shoes off, shower, and go about the remainder of your day.

The next time you go to put those shoes on, you feel something uncomfortable. "What is in my shoe?" you say. You snatch it off and shake it out. It is the smallest rock. You pick it up and toss it out!

Now, think of all the many things you do that hinder your pursuit of happiness, health, and success. They are small things that keep you from progressing; however, you never address them or do away with them. Why not?

Ask yourself.

Like the tiny rock in your shoe, small things can accumulate over time, weighing you down and impeding your journey toward fulfillment. By recognizing, acknowledging, and taking action to eradicate each obstacle, no matter how insignificant it appears, you can experience a remarkable transformation.

The process may not be easy or comfortable, requiring introspection, self-reflection, and perseverance, but the rewards are immeasurable.

Take a moment to reflect, question the small things that hinder your progress, and evaluate why you allow them to persist.

Even the tiniest rock, if left unaddressed, can



cause discomfort and impede your ability to experience the beauty

for happiness, health, and success to flourish.

that life has to offer fully.

Don't underestimate the power of addressing the minor hindrances - the tiny rocks in our metaphorical shoes - paving the way

"The sharecropper may lower his eyes, but not because he's less of a man ..."

- Ernest Gaines

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, February 11, 2024

Last Sunday after
the Epiphany

(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

Second Lesson:

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

GOSPEL:

Mark 9:2-9



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"Daily Bread" Prayers Get Results! (Part 3 of 4)

Last Thursday, February 1st, President Biden again keyed the National Prayer Breakfast; but his 2022 address still resonates with me.



Then, he recounted the final words of his older son, Beau Biden, on his son's deathbed in 2015: "Dad, promise me — promise me, Dad, you're going to stay involved."

He incorporated his promise to Beau into his daily prayers. His daily prayers and staying involved resulted in his election as the 46th U.S. President in 2020.

Biden's actions mimicked Jesus' counsel to his disciples, "Give us this day our daily bread" Luke 11:3.

Prayer became Biden's daily bread.

Over the last two weeks, I shared how prayer is needed and should be practiced as our "daily bread." Prayer also should be our "national breakfast."

Branded as the day's most important meal breakfast breaks our overnight fast, restores energy levels, and jump-starts alertness for getting results.

Prayer as our daily bread brings results. One of Christianity's central historical figures gave us the best example of effective daily prayer.

Martin Luther (the prayer) King?

Protestant reformer Martin Luther once said: "I have so much to do today that I'm going to need to spend at least three hours in prayer to be able to get it all done."



Can you imagine if you and I, like Martin Luther, were to spend three hours each day in prayer - approximately 11 and one-half minutes each hour of your 16-hour waking hours?

If and when we attempt it, then you and I would become unstoppable, emptied of self, and totally surrendered to God's will and his ways for our lives.

In *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers wrote: "If you will give God your right to yourself, He will make a holy experiment out of you - and His experiments always succeed."

Game on, count me in! If you and I are serious about getting successful results, then let's eat Martin Luther's "daily bread."



Tim Allston

Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time
Amazon Best-Selling Author
Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus,
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(256) 212-0949



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

Mrs. Alice Sams

Mrs. Alice Friend Sams was born in Madison County, Ala., where she attended public schools before earning undergraduate and MBA degrees from Alabama A&M University.

A graduate of the coveted Leadership Huntsville Madison County program in 2000, Sams has served as program director for Project FOCUS (Former Offenders Changing for Unconditional Success) under the auspices of the Madison County Commission District Six. In that capacity, since 2009 she has assisted with job and housing placement, GED preparation, restoration of voting rights and pardons from the State Pardon and Parole Board. With partners, Project FOCUS provides workshops on anger management, financial stability, life skills, and counseling.

Sams is also a retiree of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, where she served for 25 years as contract specialist from 1982-2007. At NASA, she was chiefly responsible for soliciting bids and proposals, selecting vendors, negotiating, evaluating budgets and personnel assignment, which resulted in the awarding

of purchase orders, grants and multi-million dollar contracts in support of space and missile systems.

Her diverse career also includes 12 years of teaching middle and high school students, preparing lesson plans, using innovative instructional methods to improve student's functional academic levels, reporting to local and state educational offices and evaluating students at the beginning and end of each year.

Sams also served as a liaison between the school and the Richland County Education Association. Sams is no doubt known equally as well for her significant community involvement and civic engagement with various organizations and boards.

She worked closely with the Commissioner, Judge U. W. Clemon and the community on the Desegregation Consent Order with the Huntsville City Schools and Madison County Schools and helped prepare budgets with the state and NAACP offices and the Von Braun Lions Club.

Sams is a loyal member of First Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves as chairperson of the Benevolent Com-



mittee; secretary of the Bereavement Committee; and participates in the Singles Sunday School Class and other ministries. Sams is a member and past president of the Von Braun Lions Club and was the former District Governors' Secretary.

She has served as a member of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) Board of Directors; a local board member of the Selective Service System of the State of Alabama; a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and she is the recipient of numerous honors from prominent organizations.

Sams is the mother of a daughter, Donna, a son, Reginald; stepdaughter M. Jeneene; and grandchildren, Carla, Jalen, Mitchell and Victoria.

"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. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valleyweeklyllc.com.



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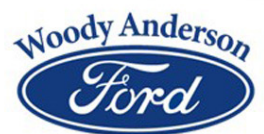


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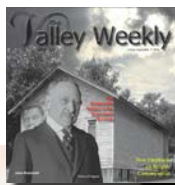
2500 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL



TVW Celebrates First Decade

Team gets a special visit from Author Wil Haygood, who was in town for a Huntsville Museum of Art Presentation!

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 - Photos by J. Saintjones
Home of Valley Weekly Founder Dorothy W. Huston



TVW Staff and Wil Haygood



Morgan Saintjones

TVW Founder Dorothy Huston & Author Haygood



Artist John Moore and wife Victoria "Sera" LeiSera



Mary Hurt and Gary T. Whitley, Jr.



"Aunt Catherine" Willis talks with Haygood



Columnists Tim Allston, Gloria Caldwell & Preston Brown



Blacks were first brought to America by force in 1619. According to the US Bureau of Census' last report, African Americans comprise approximately 13.6 % (41.6 million) of the U.S. population.

Guided by the 2024 theme, "African Americans and the Arts," Black History Month is celebrated in February to spotlight the enormous contributions of African Americans to the advancement of our nation.

Known as the "Father of Black History," Carter G. Woodson, who earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University, was the primary unrelenting leader responsible for the first celebration of "Negro

History Week" in 1926. In February 1976, late President Gerald Ford commemorated the entire month of February as Black History

Month. February was selected because it is the month both late president Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglas were born.

Two famous quotes of Dr. Woodson are: "Those who have no record of what their forebearers have accomplished, lose their inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history." Also: "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and stands in danger of being exterminated."

"Lift Every Voice and Sing", written by James Weldon Johnson, is the "National Black Anthem." The official



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

colors are red, black, yellow and green. Traditional foods are: homemade macaroni and cheese, fried chicken, red beans and rice, cornbread, seasoned greens, mashed potatoes and gravy. And ... ice-cold sweet tea.

Keeping with the theme, the first successful Black artist was Ossanwa Tanner.

Sources:
famousafricana.com
stories.hersheypa.com

NSBE Offering Scholarships to Grades 5-12

The North Alabama Professionals Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NAL NSBE Professionals) invites 5th to 12th grade students to participate in its scholarship program.

NAL NSBE Professionals was established out of

a desire to stimulate and sustain minority participation in Engineering and the Applied Sciences.

The organizations is offering scholarships through a series of initiatives, including the Creative Minds Poster Contest (5th grade); Space Camp (grades 6-8);

STEM Service Essay Scholarship (grades 9-12); Briggs Scholarship and Pope Perseverance Scholarship (high school seniors).

For scholarship information, visit <https://nsbe-northalabamae.com/programs.html>.



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Huntsville Museum of Art Grets Black History Month

Honoring of Community Advocate Barbara Bradley and
Presentation by Author Wil Haygood

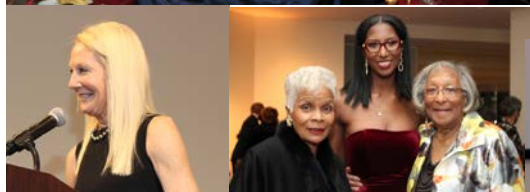
Thursday, February 1, 2024 - Photos by J. Saintjones



Honoree Barbara Bradley



Author Wil Haygood



Andrea Petroff



Georgia Valrie, Katie Huston & Catherine Willis



Kim Lewis, Flo Stallworth, John Stallworth and
Dorothy Huston



Beonica Fields, Katie Huston, Mykela Williams-
Marshall and JaLissa William-Cothron



Rev. Dr. Don Darius Butler



Mayor Tommy Battle



Peggy Etheridge & Linda Burruss

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*"I think the
first duty of
society is
justice."*

- Alexander Hamilton

Huntsville 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.

ON THIS DAY



On February 9, 1995, Bernard Anthony Harris became the first African American to perform an extra-vehicular activity during the second of his two Space Shuttle flights.

- Wikipedia.org



*Come Discover
the Magic on
the Mountain!*

No matter what time of year you explore Burritt on the Mountain, there is something delightful and new to see. And no matter how young – or old – you are, there is something for you on the Mountain! If you've never visited, you're in for a treat. If it's been awhile, what are you waiting for? Come on up and let the Magic begin!

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OPEN: April–October: Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday: noon - 5pm
November–March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm