

Burritt & Rosenwald Schools, p. 4

Friday
February 11, 2022
Vol. 8, No. 23
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Ms. Lettye Boyd

"Nations, like plants and human beings, grow." - Claude McKay



PUMBC Holding Valentine's Social

Registration is still underway for the Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church Couples' Ministry Valentine's Day Social.

The virtual event, "Taking a Stance for Marriage (Romans 15:5, 6)," is scheduled for Friday,

February 11, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tickets to register for the PUMBC Couples' Ministry Valentine's Day Social can be obtained at <https://allevents.in/huntsville/registration-for-pumbc-couples-ministry>

State Unemployment Said 'Stable'

Alabama's monthly unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.1%, state officials have said, holding steady for the fifth straight month. Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington said most of the challenges

facing the state workforce were related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wilcox County had the state's highest unemployment rate at 10.3%, while Shelby and Cullman counties had the lowest at 1.8%.

Huntsville To Host U.S. Paralympics Cycling Again

The Huntsville/Madison County community has announced that U.S. Paralympics Cycling will return to the Rocket City this spring for a second year, bringing approximately 150-200 athletes for three exciting days of racing. The U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open, presented by Toyota, will take place in two locations in Huntsville April 8-10, 2022.

No tickets are needed. All three days of racing are open to the public and will be held rain or shine.

Here's what to expect on

the three event days. Times are still being finalized, but see major events below:

Friday, April 8: Hand-cycle Relays around Big Spring Park, downtown (afternoon/early evening time frame)

Saturday, April 9: Time Trials in CRP (morning and afternoon)

Sunday, April 10: Road Races in CRP (approximately noon to 6 p.m.)

- Claire Aiello, Chamber

A&M Board to Meet Next Week

The Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees will hold its regular spring meeting on Friday, February 18, on the AAMU campus at 10 a.m. in the Clyde Foster Audi-

torium of the College of Business and Public Affairs complex.

Board subcommittees will meet throughout the day on Thursday, February 17.

Local, Other HBCUs Receive Bomb Threats

Alabama A&M University has joined the list of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) that have received bomb threats in recent days.

University law enforcement officials say a threat was received at 2:30 a.m. on Monday morning, January 31.

In light of the growing threat among the nation's black institutions of higher learning, Montrez Payton, interim chief of public safety,

says his office was contacted by the FBI last week. When the bomb threat was received early Monday morning, the University was able to immediately partner with the Huntsville Police Department and the FBI, leading to an "all clear" designation before the opening of classes and offices.

Payton praised HPD for its assistance and the avail-



ability of its vast resources. He added that during the moments immediately following the threat, the FBI personnel "were phenomenal." A native of Mobile, Ala., Payton has been serving in the head law enforcement role at AAMU for just over one month.

Huntsville, with a metropolitan population of nearly one-half million, is the site of four black institutions of

higher learning: Alabama A&M University, Drake State Community and Technical College, Huntsville Bible College and Oakwood University.

Additionally, in 2019, various media sources reported that the FBI had planned investments of about \$1 billion to build new facilities in Huntsville, envisioning the Rocket City as its second headquarters [cnbc.com/2019/11/14].

- J. Saintjones

The Valley Weekly

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Drake Offering Free STEM Bootcamps to Middle and High Schoolers

NASA and Drake State collaborate to create free STEM bootcamps for underrepresented middle and high school students

Middle and high school students can enroll in free bootcamps at Drake State Community & Technical College thanks to a multi-year grant from NASA's Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP).

This award supports minority-serving institutions working to increase the number of racially or ethnically underrepresented students (Hispanics and Latinos, African Americans, American Indians, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders), and female students in science and engineering fields.

Drake State created three bootcamps, which are a part of the college's Frontiers Engineering Coalition, to level the playing field and help minority and female youth take their first steps in future STEM occupations:

1. The Machine Tool and Welding Bootcamps lead to mechanical engineering.
2. The Engineering Design Bootcamp leads to industrial engineering (this bootcamp is currently filled).

"Often students and parents do not realize that many of our two-year associate degrees lead to four-year engineering degrees," said Director of Workforce Development Karen Ray. "At Drake State, students get hands-

sign-up online at <https://www.drakestate.edu/workforce-development/murep-bootcamps>. Racially or ethnically underrepresented students and female students are eligible to apply. Spots are limited.

About Drake State Community & Technical College: Drake State Community & Technical College offers flexible, affordable university-transfer and technical degrees, certificates, adult and continuing education, and customized skills training to fulfill the diverse workforce need of employers.

In April 2021, Drake State began a year-long celebration of its 60th Anniversary including multiple campus events for students and the community. Visit www.drakestate.edu for more information



on opportunities that they otherwise may not get somewhere else."

The Machine Tool, Engineering Design, and Welding bootcamps through MUREP begin Saturday, February 28. Each bootcamp is a free one-day event from 9 am - 4 pm and includes lunch.

Parents who would like to register their child for one of these bootcamps can



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— Margaret Walker

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ALL FOR THE FAMILY

All individuals and families need insurance protection and security. No one plans to get hurt or ill, lose homes to severe weather, auto accidents, etc., but most will need help from insurance (s) to help cover unanticipated losses during his/her lifetime.

Following are tips to help one make wiser insurance choices .

- Consider what you need to protect, and the amount of you can comfortably pay for monthly premiums.
- How much deductible can you afford to pay monthly? Must be paid for each service received, even if you don't receive service sometimes. Transportation costs to and from medical care may have to be paid.

Major government health programs available.

1. Medicaid
Eligible for 65-year-old

individuals with a very low-income (less than \$2,523 monthly and young people with a disability There is usually no premium.

2. Medicare
Part A: Provides health care coverage for individuals over 65 often times with no premium required.
Part B: Apply for coverage from October 10th -December 7th each year. For individuals 65 and older and, for young people with a disability. A typical monthly premium is \$170.

3. State Children's Health Insurance Program(SCHIP).
For children whose parents earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but do not earn enough for private insurance.

4. ALL-Kids Comprehensive Benefit Package.
Available to children whose parents' income is above Medicaid requirements, but 300 percent below the poverty



level. It provides free medical check-ups, sick child doctor visits, immunizations, dental and eye exams. Covers up to age 18. Telephone #:1-888-3731-5437.

~Think About It~
Take time to review your current insurance coverage. Have you incurred changes in family size, age or an unexpected illness? Compare the plans you have to identify those you may need to purchase or delete based on your family household.

Sources:

Healthmaintenance.org or-
ganizationMedicareresources.
com
verywellfamily.com

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME
2505 University Dr. NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35816
(256) 539-9693

A New Generation Of Service

FEBRUARY 11 - KELLY ROWLAND - Kelendria Trene Rowland is an American singer, songwriter, actress, and television personality. Rowland rose to fame in the late 1990s as a member of Destiny's Child, one of the world's best-selling girl groups of all time.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS

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

Funeral service for MR. RALPH VASSAR (b. 1924) will be held Friday, February 11, at 12 p.m. at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.

Funeral service for MR. SAMUEL WALKER (b. 1967) was held Sunday, February 6, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Minister Wallace McCormick officiating.

Funeral service for REVEREND WILLIE EARL BROOKS (b. 1960) was held Tuesday, February 1, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Gary Battles officiating.



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

Funeral service for DEACON CHARLIE LOCKHART (b. 1948) will be 11 a.m., Friday, February 11, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (315 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. DORIS SUE KENNEMER (b.1948) was held Monday, February 7, at Liberty Primitive Baptist Church (268 Burruss Road Berkley, Ala.) with Pastor Johnny Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CHARLES MOORE (b. 1956) was held Monday, February 7, at Blackburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (507 Plummer Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Tramaine D. Snodgrass officiating.

Funeral service for MR. TOM E. WILLIAMS (b. 1950) was held Sunday, February 6, at the Round Island Creek Mission Center (13829 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens, Ala.).

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

Funeral service for MR. KEITH LAMONT COLLIER (b. 1967) will be announced at a later date.



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru February 27
"Sweetness and Light: Children in Illustration"
Huntsville Museum of Art
300 Church Street
Huntsville, Ala.

February 10-March 1
Mardi Gras at MidCity
The Camp

February 11
Red Cross Blood Drive
Alabama A&M University
Honors Program Initiative
Contact: Mrs. Carla Draper
Holloway, (256) 372-5385

February 14-20
Staff Engagement Week
Alabama A&M University
Countdown to Presidential
Investiture

February 16
Start and Go Podcast
WJAB-FM 90.9
Featuring Dr. Daniel K.
Wims, 12th President
Host: Erica Fox Wash-
ington, Program Manager/
Acting Music Director
2:30 p.m.

Thurgood Marshall Col-
lege Fund Informational &
Leadership Panel
Overview of TMCF In-
ternships, Scholarships &
Conference Opportunities
Sponsor: The AAMU
Honors Program, (256)
372-5385
ZOOM: 690 152 9448

February 20
The Great Debate Tour-
namentAAMUHonors
Speech & Debate Society -
IPDA Debate and Speeches
Sponsor:AAMU Honors
Program, (256) 372-5385
Knight Center-3:30 p.m.

Burritt and the Rosenwald Schools

Burritt on the Mountain, Huntsville's oldest museum, has a mission to enhance lives and build community through educational, artistic, and recreational experiences while preserving our heritage, land, and historic structures. For almost 60 years, the Museum has been creating programs that address different parts of that statement. But its Rosenwald Schoolhouse project may fulfill the entire mission, all while bringing together several communities in the effort. A few years ago, Burritt completed the building of a replica of a Rosenwald schoolhouse.

In 1912, Julius Rosenwald, a Jewish philanthropist from Chicago, was approached by Tuskegee University founder Booker T. Washington for assistance in funding an educational program for southern rural African-Americans. Washington, a former slave, believed in self-help for African-American southerners that emphasized economic advancement through vocational education. This belief system was in line with the philosophy of Rosenwald, who himself was also a self-made man. This friendship resulted in a challenge grant program that helped over 5,500 communities raise funds for schools.

In 2014, Burritt on the Mountain announced its plans to build a replica of a Rosenwald schoolhouse based on designs used by Rosenwald and his architects. This four-room schoolhouse is now used to

offer North Alabama schoolgroups the chance to experience a day in the life of an early 19th century child. Students can visit Burritt on the Mountain and step back in time to a world long gone but fondly remembered.

Students started their day in one of the houses in the Burritt Historic Park. There they received a pail or basket in which to pack their lunch and an article of clothing that reflects the time period, possibly suspenders or bonnets. When the school bell rings, they leave their "homes" and set off to school. The first order of business includes reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag on the flagpole. But going back to a simpler time

doesn't mean the students don't learn! The Education Department of Burritt has a full day planned for the students with guidance from the students' teachers. Teachers provide a wide variety of lesson plans to choose from to tailor the day to their current curriculum. One of the rooms is an "industrial room" much like in a Rosenwald school in which historic crafts and skills are demonstrated such as tinsmithing, pottery and woodworking, all trades the 19th century students learned by which they became self-sufficient and productive citizens.



Many prominent people have ancestors who attended Rosenwald schools including Oprah Winfrey, Spike Lee and Julian Bond. Bobby Parrish Hyder, a local retired educator, attended a one room school much like a Rosenwald school. "I am amazed at how the teacher managed," remembers Hyder, "She would start with the youngest grades and would call them to the front to teach them. While she did that, the rest of us would work on our subjects. Then she would work with each class one by one."

Seven years ago, Burritt on the Mountain reported that it was in the early stages of planning the capital campaign for this school and hopes to involve the community--just as Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington did. It was their belief that if a community took part in the investment and building of the school, much more would come of

it than if it were given to them. Burritt aimed to have the school finished by the State of Alabama's Bicentennial in 2019 to help educate and celebrate this

important piece of the African American story.

- *The Original Story was Submitted by Caroline Kelly (2014)*

Development Director
Burritt on the Mountain
(From The Valley Weekly Archives)



CHAMPION GAME PLAN

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

PRESTON BROWN

OVERCOMING OUR SINS Romans 7:15

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do; but what I hate, I do.

You know, this whole business of sin has caused the deepest woes of the human race. And for everybody, sin is the greatest threat to our lives. Just look at all the senseless acts of violence we see going on in the world today. But you know what? This is the very reason that Jesus came.

1 John 2:2 says that He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for

ours, but also the sins of the whole world. God knew that we were no match for the sins of this world. You see, our sins are stronger than we are if we don't have the presence of Jesus in our lives. We may think that we can go at it alone, but we can't. Our sins are stronger than we are because they become "habitual."

Just like the Apostle Paul attempts to explain in this scripture because many people play with sin

as if they are in control. They later realize that sin always disguises itself as freedom to do what you want to do, but



you end up in bondage to that sin. You end up doing all the things that you never thought you would do. And, only Jesus can release us from the bondage of sin.

We all need Jesus today, because we cannot defeat the sin that is in the world by ourselves. Our sins are stronger than we are without the presence of Jesus in our lives ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com.



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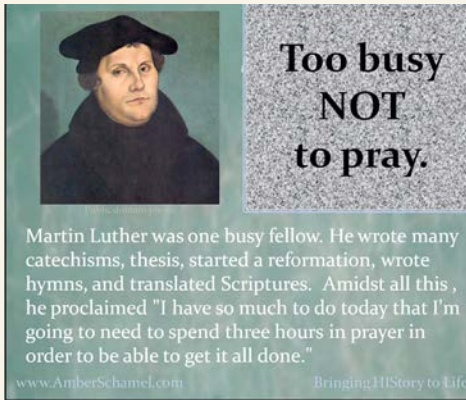
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“Daily Bread” Prayers Get Results! (Part 3 of 3)

Earlier this month in his keynote address at the National Prayer Breakfast President Biden reminisced about the final words of his older son, Beau Biden, on his 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 hard work and answered prayers resulted in his election as the 46th U.S. President.

Biden’s actions were modeled after 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, we discussed how prayer is not only needed but should be practiced as our “daily bread.” Prayer 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.

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 in order 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 - that is, 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.”

A&M Student Researching Homelessness

Moriah Smith, a native of Brewton, Ala., has been selected to receive the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Diversity and Inclusion Fellowship. ACSP officially recognized the fellows on Monday, January 31, a plus for Alabama A&M University’s Department of Community and Regional Planning.

She enrolled at AAMU in August 2018 after transferring from Alabama Coastal Community College. Smith received the 2020 APA Outstanding Student Award for her excellent academic achievement in the urban planning program at AAMU. She is also the first student of the new accelerated MURP 4+1 program established in the Fall of 2019 semester, described by program coordinators as “the type of student for which the MURP 4+1 program was created.” She continued to excel in her graduate courses and completed her



MURP degree in December 2021.

Through this fellow-

ship, she will continue her research interest on homelessness. She created a YouTube channel named “The Love Mo Project”. She will use the fellowship to continue her project and highlight the inequity and unfairness that homeless people have experienced.

Smith will travel to Nashville, Tenn., and Birmingham, Ala., to interview homeless people. Further, she will investigate demographics, social, housing, and environmental circumstances that

lead to homelessness. The mission of her project is to educate and raise awareness and promote social justice and sustainability for the lives of people who are homeless.

Smith currently works with a nonprofit organization, Family Service Center, in Huntsville, Ala., to assist homeless people back into a self-sufficient life. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. program that will enable her to continue her research interest on homelessness.

Share Your Virtual

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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.



“Martyrs are needed to create incidents. Incidents are needed to create revolutions. Revolutions are needed to create progress”

– Chester Himes

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

The Divine Step Show

Psalm 37:23

My college day memories include going to the much-anticipated Greek night “step shows” in what we infamously now call “the old gym.” The ubiquitous unity of the step-pers, the creative crafting of steps synched with chants, and the exhilarating excitement of the spectators produced a lifetime of memories that are serving

me now as I write this. It was a beautiful sight to see.

The Psalmist speaks of another type of step show with an audience and architect of One. Here is how the NLT translation puts it, *The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.*

My Holy Spirit inspired sanctified imagination sees God on His throne as He lovingly directs the steps of those who are His. He delights in every detail because He is the Author and Finisher of each one.

Imagine the joy in His heart when He prevents a life altering step or when He providentially directs one that brings His child

into the very door that suddenly thrusts them into their destiny. Though each of the steps for each of His children are anything but synched at the same

pace and pattern, what is synched is His will for them and He does so without destroying or dismissing their free will. From our view at ground zero,

often our steps look to be anything but ordered. However, the One in charge of the details says they are. That’s enough for me!



This Sunday's Lectionary

(Track 2 - Year C)

Sunday, February 13, 2022
 Sixth Sunday After the
 Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10
 Psalm 1
 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
 Luke 6:17-26



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

Ms. Lettye Boyd



Lettye A. Boyd, a native of Auburn, Ala., is the daughter of the late Lois D. Boyd and the late J. D. Boyd. She graduated from Lee County Training School in 1957, attending historic Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., from 1957-58.

In 1961, however, she received the B.S. degree in elementary education and music from Alabama A&M University. She pursued additional studies at Alabama A&M University, Grove City College, Virginia State University and Jackson State University.

Boyd's more than three-decade professional career includes student teacher, 2nd Grade & Music, 1961, Cherry Street Elementary School, Decatur, Ala.; teacher, 2nd Grade & Music, 1961-63, Laney Elementary School, Waverly Hall, Ga; teacher, Music & Other, 1963-1970, Councill Senior High School, formerly Councill Training School, Normal, Ala.; teacher, Music & Other, Four Summers, Madison County Headstart Program, Madison County Schools; and teacher, Music & Other, 1970-93, Madison Cross Roads School, Toney, Ala., (established the school's first organized music program).

Ms. Boyd's numerous other skills and interests are exemplified by her service

as Choral Director, 1978-80, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; Minister of Music, 1980-2000, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; Director, 1988, Alabama A&M University Alumni Choir, Normal, Ala.; Choral Director, 2000-Present, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; and Office Manager/Bookkeeper (1993-2011) Rocket City Charter Service, Harvest, Ala.

Ms. Boyd is affiliated with several professional, community and civic organizations, among them the Alabama Education

Association, Alabama State Teacher's Association, Madison County Teacher's Association, Georgia Teacher's Association, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville Christian Service Singers, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Organized the Chapter's First Choral Ensemble), and many others.

Ms. Boyd's honors and awards received for her choral performances, music education and other contributions to music are legion.

PowerShot

"Write it down on real paper with a real pencil with real intent and watch it get real."

Erykah Badu





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"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@valley-weeklyllc.com.



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Black History Month Celebration

Dr. Patricia G. Sims

President

J. F. Drake State Community and Technical College



On December 1, 2018, Dr. Patricia G. Sims began her tenure as President of Drake State Community and Technical College. She is the fourth President in the institution's sixty-year history.

Dr. Sims leads Drake State with a spirit of excellence and brings to the institution an in-depth knowledge of higher education and administration, and an unbridled enthusiasm for student success.

Dr. Sims has led the charge for Drake State to expand partnerships with businesses and industry, to create new opportunities and pathways for students, and to increase resources to support student achievement. Under Dr. Sims' leadership, Drake State has seen a significant increase in state and federal funding, has increased enrollment, and has expanded its program offerings.

Recently, Drake State became the first and only Historically Black Community College (HBCC) to be awarded a Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) since the program's inception.

Drake State's Frontiers Project focuses on expanding the body of knowledge associated with additive manufacturing for both terrestrial and planetary applications.

With over 25 years of

experience, Dr. Sims is committed to ensuring that students have both the access and the training needed to transform their lives. Her distinguished educational career includes having served as the Dean for the College of Education at Athens State University, where she led the largest teacher education program in the state of Alabama and was the first African American to serve as an academic dean at the institution in its over 200-year history.

Engaged throughout the state, Dr. Sims supports a variety of organizations,



including her service as a board member of the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust and the Alabama Partnership for Children. In 2019, she also became the first African American woman to serve

on the Board of Directors for the Alabama State Port Authority.

Dr. Sims is active in the Huntsville/Madison County community, serv-

ing as a board member and supporter of various organizations to include the Burritt Memorial Committee, the WEDC Foundation and the board for Downtown Huntsville, Inc. Her passion for education and service is evidenced through her work with organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Association for University Women, and the International Women's Forum-Alabama. Dr. Sims has been recognized for her work locally and across the state. In 2021, she was

recognized by Yellowhammer as a Woman of Impact in the state of Alabama and named by the Alabama Media Group as a member of the 2019 Class of Women Who Shape the State of Alabama.

Dr. Sims is also a recipient of the 2019 Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University's Outstanding Alumni Award.

President Sims and her husband, Themika, are the proud parents of a daughter, Kirsten.

This is to give you a BIG SHOUT OUT for continuing an outstanding local Newspaper with photos large enough to tell who it is focused on. Thanks for all that you do for our community and the Tennessee Valley. Please give a BIG SHOUT OUT to Brother Saintjones, as well.

*Warm Regards,
Sister (Katie) Byrd*

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