

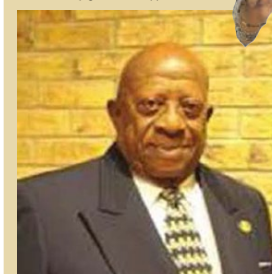


# Investiture Countdown, p. 3



Friday  
February 18, 2022  
Vol. 8, No. 24  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

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



Mr. Charles Briggs, Sr.

*"The blues is not the creation of a crushed-spirited people ..."* - Albert Murray

## Drake Receives Anonymous Gift

Students at Drake State Community & Technical College will have access to new scholarship dollars over the next year thanks to an anonymous \$200,000 donation.

"Receiving the email about this gift to the college was both a pleasant surprise and welcome recognition of the good work of our faculty and staff," said Drake State President Dr. Patricia G. Sims.

The anonymous benefactor chose Drake State because they admire the college's growth and development over the past few



years and the school's rapid response to the pressures of COVID-19 and increased need for skilled workers in today's workforce.

The donor also expressed interest in supporting Drake State's work with Veterans and military families and applauded the college's ability to provide these students with an extra measure of attention.

In 1957, under the presidency of Evangeline H. Spillman, Epsilon Gamma Omega initiated its debutante training program for the purpose of enriching the cultural development of recommended young ladies in Huntsville and surrounding areas. Proposed by Fannie E. Frazier Hicklin, the program included an eight-week charm school featuring training sessions on the development of the social graces and spiritual, social and civic awareness. It culminated with a Debutante Presentation and Ball.

The first Debutante Presentation and Ball was held February 7, 1958 in the Alabama A&M College Gymnasium. Three remain active. They are Bettye J. Gurley Cain, Carolyn Rice Battle and Sylvia Sledge Flakes. More than two thousand young women have been presented during the past sixty-one years, many of whom have become Alpha Kappa Alpha women.

The names of the 2022 Prospective Debutantes are as pictured above: **First Row** (L-R): Ckhyllar Kelly, Natia Johnson, Diamond-Cole Williams, Samara

## AKA-EGO Debutante Ball Goes Virtual



Brown, Amya Williams, Ferran Jackson, Robinson Scruggs, Kennedy Arch, Kelsey Sims, Jada Tibbs, Kasara Harrell, Madison Stovall. **Second Row** (l-r): Kennedy Cunningham, Logan Strong, Aleisa Caston, Alicia Walker, Ashton O'Neal, Alyssa Jones, Aniyah Kingston, Kiah Warner, Jada Watkins, Paige Jordan, Jada Colley, Aaliyah Caston, Elon McCants, Kennady Snodgrass. **Third Row** (l-r): Cameron Tarrant-McKitt, Marley Taylor, Daviyonna Young, Nevaeh Neerhof, Jayden Minisee, Nia Williams, Natalie Parks, Morgan White, Jordan

Holden, Wonnisha Edwards, Amya Poole, Amiya Moore, Maya Taylor, Nia Stevenson, Olivia Walker, Maniya Woods. **Not Pictured:** Alivia Eggleston, Fallon Gurley, Kennedy Russell and JeNiyah Silas.

After decades, the Alpha Kappa Debutante Presentation and Ball format will change this year due to the Sorority's COVID-19 guidelines. Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter will present 46 accomplished young ladies to society at 7:00 p.m. Friday, February 18. Hundreds of guests will not be able to witness their debut in person, but the public is in-

vited to livestream the event on the Chapter's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AKAEGOChapter/> or its YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRO0CdcgxJbva-JeTe5C5XMw>.

*Elegant, Majestic and Rare: A Reflection of Exquisite Jewels* is the theme of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Debutante Presentation and Ball. Terry Miller is Ball Chairman, and Dominique Jefferson is Co-Chairman. Chartered on March 19, 1949, the 73-year-old Chapter is led by Dr. Cheryl R. Davis, President.

The Valley Weekly

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Washington in a Minute, Page 2

Valley Events, Page 3

Preston Brown's Champion Game Plan, Page 4  
tim allston: Perspectives, Page 5

Rev. Michael Rice: Called 2 Preach, Page 6

"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 7

Spotlight on Our Elders, Page 7



**Publisher**

The Valley Weekly, LLC

**Editor-in-Chief**

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

**Editorial Consultant/****Senior Editor**

Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

**Editorial Assistants**Linda Burruss  
Phyllis Chunn  
William Huston, Sr.  
Gary T. Whitley, Jr.**Advertising Associate**

Phyllis Chunn

**- Contributing Editors -**tim allston  
Minister Preston Brown  
Robert Drake  
Ron Hamm  
Pastor Michael D. Rice**Website Administrator**

Calvin Farier

**Mailing Address:**The Valley Weekly  
415A Church Street - Suite 100  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(256) 651-9028  
[www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com)  
Copyright 2021

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 do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the belief 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 10x5 inches	\$400
Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$200
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$100
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$50
Classified	1 col.x1 inch (4 col. in. minimum=\$24)	\$50/Flat Fee
6 Month/1 Yr.-10% & 20% Discount!		

## Washington in One Minute



Here are the happenings in Washington, D.C., this week:

**1. ON THE FLOOR.**

The House is in recess until February 28. The Senate is in session this week and started off Monday, February 14, with an attempt to end debate on the motion to proceed to the Postal Service Reform Act that was approved by the full House last week on a 342 - 92 vote.

The Senate will also need to pass another continuing resolution (CR) this week to keep the federal government operating past Friday, February 18, when the current resolution expires (the House approved a new CR through March 11, 2022, last week).

**2. THE WHITE**

**HOUSE.** On last Friday, February 11, President Biden deployed 3,000 troops from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to Poland, a number which is in addition to the 70,000 U.S. troops permanently stationed in Europe. On Saturday at Camp David, President Biden spoke by telephone with Russian President Putin about Russia's troop buildup on the Ukraine border - with the White House announcing

that the call had produced "no fundamental change." Politicoreported that a Russian invasion of Ukraine could occur as soon as this past Wednesday (February 16). On Tuesday, February 15, the President was scheduled to speak at the National Association of Counties 2022 Legislative Conference at the Washington Hilton. On Thursday, the President traveled to Cleveland and Lorain, Ohio, to discuss infrastructure.

**3. FEDERAL RESERVE NOMINEES.** On Tuesday, February 15, the Senate Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs Committee met in Executive Session to approve another term as Chair for Jerome Powell at the Federal Reserve, as well as new members of the Board of Governors: Sarah Bloom Raskin (the wife of Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-MD), Dr. Lisa DeNell Cook, and Dr. Philip Nathan Jefferson. Current member Lael Brainard and new member Sarah Bloom Raskin will be named Vice Chairs.

**4. IRS WOES.** On Thursday, February 17, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on the tax filing season and IRS challenges to providing customer service. The Washington

Post reported last Friday that the work backlog at the agency has reached epic proportions, with nearly 24 million taxpayers still waiting for the IRS to process their tax returns from last year and that the agency was considering suspending tax collections and excusing some penalty enforcement.

**5. COUNTIES IN WASHINGTON.** HCG attended events on Tuesday at the 2022 National Association of Counties of Counties (NACO) Legislative Conference. Nearly 2,000 county officials from across the nation are in Washington, D.C. this week focusing on federal policies and resources at the conference and advocating to their members of Congress and federal agency representatives.

Ron Hamm  
Hamm Consulting Group  
444 North Capitol Street,  
NW Suite 840  
Washington D.C. 20001  
T: 202-596-8384  
[rhamm@hammconsulting.com](mailto:rhamm@hammconsulting.com)  
[www.hammconsulting.com](http://www.hammconsulting.com)

**Beyond a bank.  
Beyond expectations.**

At Bryant Bank, our vision is to see every Alabamian experience a financially stable future and live in a thriving community.

We are invested in your success and the success of the place we both call home. We're here to be a trusted partner, to exceed your expectations, and to help both you and our community invest in its full potential.

**BRYANT BANK**

**Downtown Huntsville & Southeast Huntsville**  
Personal, Business, & Mortgage Banking Services  
[BryantBank.com](http://BryantBank.com) | 256-535-1045



NMLS 582857



*"The most dangerous creation of any society  
is the man who has nothing to lose."*

- James Baldwin

**Albert's Flowers**

Located Downtown in Medical District; Closest Florist to Huntsville Hospital  
Free Delivery to Huntsville Hospital and Local Funeral Homes

**716 Madison Street - Huntsville, AL 35801**


**FLOWERS, GIFTS,  
EXOTIC FLOWERS**

**Graduate of  
American Floral Art School**  
**256-533-1623**  
**256-536-6911**  
**[www.albertsflowers.com](http://www.albertsflowers.com)**



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



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

Funeral service for MRS. FLORENCE A. OLUGBODE (b.1948) will be Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Redeemed Christian Church of God (4906 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MR. GREGORY UMBAUGH (b. 1946) was held Monday, February 14, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Words of Comfort by Minister Jessie Booker.

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

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

Funeral service for MRS. JUDY WOODS HOLMAN (b. 1959) will be 12 noon, Saturday, February 19, at Blackburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (507 Plummer Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Tramaine Snodgrass officiating.

Funeral service for MR. QUINLAN LAMAR PARKER (b. 1973) will be 12 noon., Saturday, February 19, at First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Rd, NW, Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MRS. MIRIAM C. McMILLAN was held Thursday, February 17, at the Oakwood Seventh-day Adventist Church (7000 Adventist Boulevard Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Debleaire Snell officiating and Waldo G. McMillan, II, Esq. as eulogist.

Graveside service for MS. MARY ANN WESLEY (b. 1945) was held Wednesday, February 16, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road Toney, Ala.) with Elder Johnny Jones officiating.

Graveside service for MR. JEFFERY TOM BRAZELTON (b. 1955) was held Monday, February 14, at Berkley Community Cemetery (209 Cobb Road Berkley, Ala.) with Pastor Joe Kelly officiating.

**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.

## Faith Initiative Scholarships Announced

FAITH Initiative, Incorporated, a 501c3 nonprofit established by Fellowship Presbyterian Church USA, has announced its scholarships for Spring 2022.

The scholarships are open to deserving area students who have been accepted to an accredited university or technical school and who demonstrate the potential to become a productive member of the community.

Recipients are not required to be enrolled or accepted in an institution of higher learning in Alabama to receive the scholarships.

Applications and requirements have been mailed to area high school counselors and local churches. Students selected from the Tennessee Valley will be informed by letter, and the formal announcement will be made at the must-be-present annual event.

Applications: FAITH Initiative organization at [faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com](mailto:faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com); website for Fellowship Presbyterian Church at [fpchuntsville.org](http://fpchuntsville.org); or call 256-714-9399. Applications must be received not later than March 8, 2022.

The Henderson and Anthony Family Scholarship for Choral Performance is established to provide a scholarship of \$500 per semester (\$1,000 per year) to two sophomore, junior, or senior singers (per semester) enrolled in a college or university music program or singing in the choir. (This comprises two \$1,000 scholarships.) The

## RJF Scholarship Applications Due

The Rosetta James Foundation is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship distribution through mid-February. The Foundation, which honors active volunteerism among persons 70-plus years of age, awarded some \$40,000 in scholarships last year. Visit [rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://rosettajamesfoundation.org) for info.

## Legacy Center, Churches Help Seniors

All of the 72 church partners of The Legacy Center continued their "love of seniors" in the Madison County community.

Some 100 residents of a Huntsville Housing Authority property, designated for low-income seniors, each received a bucket of cleaning supplies,

in scholarships last year. Visit [rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://rosettajamesfoundation.org) for info.

along with a bowl of soup from Chick-fil-A.

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 18**  
The Boat Show Huntsville  
Von Braun Center  
700 Monroe Street SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
12-9 p.m.

**February 19-20**  
Alabama RV Super Show  
Von Braun Center  
700 Monroe Street SW  
Huntsville, Ala.

**February 20**  
The Great Debate Tournament AAMU Honors Speech & Debate Society - IPDA Debate and Speeches  
Sponsor: AAMU Honors Program, (256) 372-5385  
Knight Center  
[www.aol.com](http://www.aol.com)  
3:30 p.m.

**21-27**  
Faculty Engagement Week  
Countdown to Presidential Investiture  
Alabama A&M University

**February 23**  
"Interpreting Enslaved People's History into Historic Sites"  
Presenter: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Sponsor: White House Initiative on HBCUs

**February 27**  
Registration:  
[https://achp.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_DmZEwJcvS2ax7w-ZQm9rqIg](https://achp.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_DmZEwJcvS2ax7w-ZQm9rqIg)  
4 p.m.

**February 25**  
"The Quest for Environmental and Climate Justice in the United States"  
Presenter: Dr. Robert Bul-lard, Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy  
Texas Southern University  
Sponsor: AAMU Department of Community and Regional Planning in Collaboration with the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences  
Via Zoom (Registration)  
<https://aamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUlcu-GrqzgtG9a9bYVvF0G9U-wths0qobDOC>  
10 a.m.-12 noon

**Arts Showcase of Excellence**  
Featuring: Dramatic & Instrumental Expressions, Song, Dance, Poetry, etc.  
Sponsor: Alabama A&M University Honors Program, (256) 372-5385  
Edward S. Johnson Theatre  
Morrison Building  
5:30 p.m.

**February 27**  
"Celtic Woman - Postcards from Ireland"  
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.



## Black History Month Special

- featuring -

# ALLEN PERKINS

Allen Perkins was appointed to the position of Superintendent in November 2019 after being a dedicated member of the school district for 17 years.

Mr. Perkins is a native of Virginia. He relocated to Huntsville to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science Education at Oakwood University. While attending Oakwood University, Mr. Perkins was inspired by the sign at the entrance that reads "Enter to Learn," and when leaving the campus it reads, "Exit to Serve." This has been his purpose and motivation for his entire career. Mr. Perkins wants to continue his own learning while serving as many people as he can by helping others reach their fullest God-given potential. After graduating from Oakwood, Mr. Perkins attended Alabama A & M University where he furthered his education earning a Master's Degrees in both Social Science Education and Education Administration and Leadership, while also working full time as a teacher.

Mr. Perkins began his teaching career in 2003 at New Market School in Madison County. There, he taught 7th and 8th grade Social Studies for seven years while also serving as an assistant basketball coach, after school tutor, and Scholars' Bowl coach. Mr. Perkins also spearheaded the first archery

program at New Market School that is now replicated in many other schools throughout the district.

Always seeking to expand his influence on the stu-



dents of Madison County, Mr. Perkins decided to pursue leadership opportunities within the district. He served as the Assistant Principal at Legacy Elementary for a year and a half, and in 2011, Mr. Perkins was named principal at Buckhorn Middle School. After a successful term as principal, Mr. Perkins was named Supervisor of Instruction for Madison County Schools. In 2018, he was named the district's first Director of Equity and Innovation. As Director of Equity and Innovation, Mr. Perkins led the implementation of Madison County Schools' desegregation order with the purpose of moving the district toward unitary status. He also enhanced and expanded educational opportunities for students by developing

relationships and partnerships with local businesses and industry leaders.

During his first three years as Superintendent, Mr. Perkins plans to focus on implementing the district's Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan serves as a guide for the system's implementation of the Professional Learning Communities Process while focusing on the "whole child" by improving support services, including mental health, for students. Another important goal for Mr. Perkins is to find ways to secure additional revenue sources for Madison County Schools because he feels strongly the students deserve the very best.

Mr. Perkins is a devoted father to his son, and they enjoy spending time together camping, hiking, and being outdoors. He is actively involved in his church, seeking always the opportunity to serve the needs of the community. One of Mr. Perkins' favorite quotes is from Ellen G White: "Education is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come." For Mr. Perkins, all leadership is through service.

- [www.mcsc12.org](http://www.mcsc12.org)  
Photo: Huntsville Chamber of Commerce

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

## CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

### "LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

1 Corinthians 13:6-7 says, *"Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

When we look at this scripture, the apostle Paul has a perfect description of how love should be. In this scripture you can't help but notice how simple it is to understand how to love. For example, we all know what is being asked of us but the problem is the willingness to do what it says. When you love

someone, your intentions should never be meant to harm them. So, there is no need to worry about offending someone, because love creates an atmosphere of agreement. Even when we agree to disagree, this is having an attitude of love.

In 1 John 4:7 it says, *"Dear friends let us love one another, for love comes from God."* 1 John 4:8 goes on to say *"whoever does not love does not know God because God is love."* You see, love prefers to be overly generous rather than overly suspicious. Some people are very suspicious because

they never learn how to love anybody. What a miserable place to be, because when we don't love people, we allow the enemy to get a "foothole" in our lives, and that will take away our joy and our peace, because we are constantly complaining about them.

So, let us seek ways to build each other up and not bring them down with our words or our actions. Because love does not dishonor others ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. Make sure you purchase your copy of my book, *"A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE"* on amazon.com.



**DRAKE STATE**  
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## ADVANCING GREAT CAREERS

[drakestate.edu](http://drakestate.edu)

W&A

WOMACK & ASSOCIATES LLC

"Partnering With You to Make Informed Decisions"

\*Comprehensive Financial Planning \*Estate Planning \*Accounting Services  
\*Tax Planning and Preparation for Individuals, Businesses, Estates and Trusts

**To learn more contact us:**

Lori A. Womack, CPA/PFS, CFP®  
Managing Member

[lwomack@womackassociatesllc.com](mailto:lwomack@womackassociatesllc.com)

4650 Whitesburg Dr S, Suite 101  
Huntsville, Alabama 35802  
256-534-1360





### Presenting Tom Brady and Barry Bonds the 2022 GWA Awards\*

Two major sports announcements were made recently involving presumed Hall of Famers:

1. Tom Brady retired after his 22-year NFL career of seven Super Bowl championships and eight varied NFL MVPs; and
2. Barry Bonds, baseball’s all-time home run slugger (762) and winner of a record seven National League MVP awards, was denied Hall of Fame induction for the tenth and final time of the normal induction process.

Both could be considered the best of all time in their respective sports, but their records are tainted by documented evidence of cheating, leaving one to wonder would they have achieved greatness had they not cheated.

Because of their alleged cheating while achieving greatness, both are prime candidates for \*GWA (Greatness With Asterisks) Awards.

The recently-retired Brady won’t be on the ballot for Hall induction until 2027. Admitting either Bonds or Brady into their respective Halls would sanction, accept, and reward cheating and dishonesty. Wrong message!

The NFL alleged that Brady ordered footballs deflated during a playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts which his New England Patriots won. The win moved the Pats into the 2016 Super Bowl which they won and Brady was named MVP; he was later fined and suspended for four games the following season.

In 2007, a federal grand jury indicted Bonds for lying about his use of performance-enhancing drugs during his career.

#### What’s the Problem Here? Everybody does it, right?

In Exodus 20:3-17, three of the Bible’s 10 Commandments admonish us not to steal, lie (“bear false witness . . .”), or covet - each of which Brady and Bonds violated in their cheating.

However, their advocates wink and argue, “Hey, who doesn’t cheat (in sports)?” To those winkers, I ask: Would you also wink at, say, the surgeon soon to operate on your mother or daughter if you knew he or she cheated their way through med school?

Hey, I’m no Pollyanna; like Bonds and Brady, I’ve cut more corners illegitimately than I care to admit. But when I’ve been confronted and accused rightly, I try to admit my hiccup and right that wrong immediately.

And that’s the main problem - their arrogance of denial.

Let’s you and me use Brady’s and Bonds’ hiccups to eliminate the asterisks of falsehood, cheating, and covetousness from our pursuits of greatness.

### COVID-19 Assistance

**UNITED WAY COVID-19 Assistance Fund**  
Donate:  
[www.uwmadison-county.org](http://www.uwmadison-county.org)  
Get Assistance: Call 211

**SMALL BUSINESSES**  
[disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)  
(800) 659-2955

**COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT**  
Alabama Department of Labor  
(866) 234-5382  
[labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov)

**MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
(256) 539-3711

**LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION**  
Alabama Department of Public Health  
[www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

**TAKEOUT/ DELIVERY RESTAURANTS**  
<https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/>

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

### A New Generation Of Service

**FEBRUARY 18 - BEBE MOORE CAMPBELL** was an American author, journalist and teacher. Campbell was the author of three New York Times bestsellers. Her other works include the novel *Your Blues Ain't Like Mine*, which was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year and the winner of the NAACP Image Award for Literature. - [BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com)

# Mardi Gras Dinner

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>**

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

**BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

[BURRITTONTHEMOUNTAIN.COM](http://BURRITTONTHEMOUNTAIN.COM)

**LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER**

*“Forgiveness is the key to the recovery of the soul.”*

- Bebe Moore Campbell



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# **CALLLED 2 PREACH**

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## **The Believer's BFF**

John 15:15

Texting has produced a whole new form of shorthand. There was a time when 'shorthand' was a technique used by secretaries when they were taking dictations from an administrator. If one was not familiar with that form of shorthand, a look at a dictated letter would look like a page full of symbols that made no sense to any-

one but the secretary that wrote it. That was also a way to keep the content of the letter confidential and confusing to others who may not be privileged to that content.

The same can be said of text messages among friends who seek to keep the content coded so as to have some semblance of secrecy. This has produced such abbreviations as LOL (laugh out loud), NP (no problem), and BFF (best friends forever).

Had Jesus had text messaging in His day, perhaps John 15:15 would have expressed to His disciples that He was their *BFF* forever. John recorded Jesus as saying, *No longer do I call you servants, for the servant*



pxabay.com/trevoynkelbyphotography

*does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

This represented a shift in their status and a sharing of heavenly information that was privy to only BFF's. What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins

*and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.*  
Is He your BFF?

## *This Sunday's Lectionary*

(Track 2 - Year C)

Sunday, February 20, 2022  
Seventh Sunday After the  
Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38



Personal Injury | Auto Accidents | Probate & Estate Administration  
Corporate Law | Real Estate Law | Divorce | Criminal Law

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 256-533-1667

Fax: 256-533-1696

info@martinsonandbeason.com

www.martinsonandbeason.com

facebook.com/martinsonandbeason



*No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.*

**Dedicated To You.  
Delivering Results.**



**Woody Anderson Ford**

256-539-9441

www.WoodyAndersonFord.com

2500 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL



**State Farm®**

## **MARY F SPEARS, AGENT**

7833-A Highway 72 West

Madison, AL 35758

Bus: 256-837-8899 Fax: 256-837-8225

mary.spears.cffc@statefarm.com







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

## Mr. Charles E. Briggs, Sr.

Charles E. Briggs, Sr., is a retired educator who enjoyed a productive career at Kentucky State University and in the Decatur and Huntsville City School Systems.

Briggs held positions ranging from classroom teacher to vocational coordinator and assistant principal of Lakeside High School in Decatur, Alabama. He earned his bachelor's and master's degree in trade and industrial education from Alabama A&M University.

After retirement, Briggs served as a weatherization coordinator for the Huntsville/Madison and Limestone Counties Community Action Agency. He is a member of the First Missionary Baptist

Church, where he has served as director of the male chorus. He still sings in the male chorus and other choirs.

Briggs gallantly served his country and is a proud veteran of the United States Army. His community service, however, involves active membership in the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the R.E. Nelms Elks Lodge



#977.

He is also the Grand Deputy Inspector General State of Alabama and Worshipful Master of the Smith Grand Council of the Ancient and Scottish Rite Masons.

## PowerShot

"Don't let anything on this side of glory break the rhythm of your stride."

J. T. Moore



"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).

THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM  
ALL-ELECTRIC MUSTANG MACH-E

TEST-DRIVE IT TODAY!

Woody Anderson Ford  
256-539-9441 | [www.WoodyAndersonFord.com](http://www.WoodyAndersonFord.com)  
2500 Jordan Lane Huntsville, AL 35816

Because it's a colorful world...

**Xcel** Services

Design • Print • Mail • Promotional  
256-539-1658  
[www.xcelprint.com](http://www.xcelprint.com)

LET ME BE YOUR  
*Jewelry Lady!*

**Tara Walker**  
Independent Paparazzi Consultant

225-247-7106  
[tarastrendytreasures.com](http://tarastrendytreasures.com)



# Why African-American Millennials Need Life Insurance, Too

(BPT) - If you're a millennial, the chances you've already invested in a private life insurance policy are probably pretty low. The share of Americans covered by life insurance slid from 63% in 2011 to 52% in 2021 - and the most pronounced decrease has come from younger generations.

It makes sense - you're young and healthy, and extra money goes towards the latest iPhone, smart home device or international travel. With the last 18 months forcing even younger generations to confront their own mortality, 48% of millennials are reportedly planning to buy within the next 12 months.

Here's why now is the time for millennials to prioritize life insurance:

**1. Save money over time.** For all the stereotypes about millennials, it's a generation of good planners who are responsible and strong forward-thinkers. The cost of a life insurance policy is largely dependent upon risk (healthy millennials are generally considered a lower risk), so buying a life insurance policy when you are young can help lock in lower rates with term or permanent insurance.

**2. Buying life insurance is easier.** One of the main reasons millennials have avoided life insurance is because it has



traditionally been a pain to buy. Fortunately, advances in technology have made it easier to purchase almost anything. Millennials use virtual assistants or e-commerce sites to shop for groceries and order takeout. Same-day delivery is no longer a perk, but an industry standard that even the life insurance industry is beginning to embrace.

Signing up for life insurance isn't difficult now that there are streamlined processes like the Quility direct-to-consumer platform, which allows applicants to receive a personalized policy up to \$1 million approved and delivered on average in ten minutes or less - no doctor's visits or in-person meetings necessary.

The 100% online platform, which recently added two new term life products, including the brand's proprietary Quility Level Term product, is the new industry standard in simplicity, convenience and affordability. The company also has licensed insurance agents available for in-person, virtual or telephone meetings.

**3. Protect your family from financial burden.** Millennials have long prioritized their careers and financial security but, as even the youngest millennials enter their mid-20s, more and more are starting families.

It has become commonplace for people to believe they don't need life insurance because they don't have any

children yet. But just because

you don't have dependents doesn't mean there aren't people who depend on you. Life insurance will help protect your spouse or long-term significant other with whom you own or rent a home, and allows your parents or siblings to cover unanticipated costs as

they grieve. Half of millennials acknowledge their families would face financial hardship should a wage-earner die unexpectedly - and 43% expressed concern about leaving their dependents in a difficult financial bind. That's especially important for millennials who have long prioritized their careers and financial security, but are now looking to start families as even the youngest of the generation enter their mid-20s.

**4. Consider your cosigners.** Today's graduates are strapped with record-breaking student loan debt, so it's important for millennials to consider their cosigners when shopping for life insurance. Certain types of debt are waived in the event of an unexpected death - and that includes student loans. However, many millennials have their parents or loved ones cosign on loans, credit cards

or mortgages. If that's the case, your student loan debt would transfer to your cosigner in the event of an unexpected death. A life insurance policy would help ease that financial burden in a time of grieving.

Millennials are among the most educated and knowledgeable generations in history. They're health conscious, financially conscious and socially conscious. Yet, life insurance has been overlooked because the industry has made things too complex, too confusing and too inconvenient.

COVID has raised awareness about the important role life insurance plays in families' financial security, so it's time for millennials to consider getting life insurance sooner rather than later. Quility can help secure your financial future in 10 minutes or less. Get insurance your way at [www.quility.com](http://www.quility.com).

# WJAB

## 90.9 FM

[www.wjab.org](http://www.wjab.org)

Because it's a colorful world...



# Xcel

## Services

Design • Print • Mail • Promotional

256-539-1658 [www.xcelprint.com](http://www.xcelprint.com)

# MAYHEM IS EXPENSIVE.

## ALLSTATE IS NOT.



**JAMES F SMITH & ASSOCIATES**  
256-852-7310  
415 CHURCH ST NW BUILDING B  
HUNTSVILLE  
[jamesfsmith@allstate.com](mailto:jamesfsmith@allstate.com)



## Allstate®

Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Co. © 2013 Allstate Insurance Co.

168974