

The Legacy Center, Kohler Sponsor "Love Lunch" - p. 8

FREE



Kohler's Nicole Reid

A&M Black Tie Gala Around the Corner - p. 7

Friday
February 23, 2024
Vol. 10, No. 25
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



GLORIA B: R-E-S-T-O-R-A-T-I-O-N - p. 5

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Jacquelyne Bennett

"What power has law where only money rules?" - Petronius



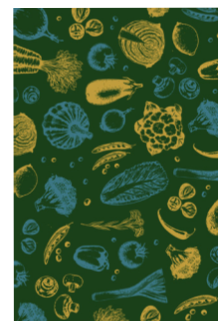
TANK'S FUTURE HALF FULL? The massive water tank that has loomed with omnipresence for decades at the corner of Sparkman Drive and Pulaski Pike is finally getting some tender loving care, according to Huntsville Utilities Gary T. Whitley, Jr., who sees a bright mural in its future. [Photo: Saintjones]

Huntsville Wants Transit Drivers

Quisha Bryant, Director of Huntsville's Parking and Public Transit Department, says working as a fixed-route bus operator is a fulfilling career that comes with multiple benefits. Having the best office in town is just one of them.

For more info, call (256) 427-6811.

'Taste of Soul' Fest Coming to Orion



Taste of Soul Alabama Family Festival is a one-day event (March 30) to celebrate the heart and soul of Huntsville through music, food and fun. Local eateries, food trucks, and food

entrepreneurs are the fabric of Rocket City and will be the main focus of this event at The Orion Amphitheater, from 12-8 p.m. Tickets \$15 & \$20. Visit theorionhuntsville.com.

Rocket City Hosts Sheryl Underwood

Stand Up Live Huntsville has listed comedian Sheryl Underwood on its laugh roster.

Underwood is scheduled to entertain Huntsville-area audiences on April 19 and 20.

Entrepreneur Underwood is a much sought-after entertainer and public speaker who is described as one of the world's brightest contemporary humorists.



Local Church Observes 120th Anniversary

The leadership and members of Taylor's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church recently celebrated the church's 120th anniversary on Sunday, February 18, with the theme, "We've Come This Far by Faith."



The scheduled guest speaker was Elder Joe Hereford, pastor of Moses Chapel PB Church in Madison, Ala. The event observed Black History Month and the church's founding by Rev. William "Will" Taylor in 1904.

AAMU Prof Receives Microsoft Grant

Microsoft has announced Alabama A&M University Professor Dr. Xiang (Susie) Zhao was selected as one of ten inaugural grant recipients through the Accelerate Foundation Models Research (AFMR) Minority Serving Institutions grant program.

The AFMR program provides

researchers with access to state-of-the-art tools necessary to conduct meaningful and impactful research on AI. In addition to a \$50,000 grant award, recipients are provided with credits to access leading-edge models hosted by Microsoft.

Zhao, the Princi-



pal Investigator, is a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and

Computer Science (EECS) and directs the Laboratory of Advanced Modeling, Simulation and Data Science, will use the grant to research responsible AI.

The Valley Weekly

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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@valley-weeklyllc.com. Items published do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

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The Valley Weekly
Ad Rates Single Issue

Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,500
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$1,200
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$900
Half Page	Horizontal	\$600
	5x10 inches	
Fourth Page	Vertical	\$300
	10x5 inches	
Eighth Page	5x5 inches	\$150
	2.5x5 inches	
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
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 recess this week and will reconvene on Feb. 26 (Senate) and Feb. 28 (House). Last week, the Senate approved a \$95 billion Ukraine/Israel/Taiwan military aid bill on a 70 to 29 vote with 22 Republicans voting in favor. The House last week impeached Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on a narrow 214-213 vote, but failed to bring up for debate a bill that would have lifted the state and local tax (SALT) deduction cap from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for married couples for the current tax year and abruptly canceled action on a bill to reauthorize Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which expires on April 19. Approximately 40 Members of the House and Senate traveled to Germany over the weekend (joined by Vice President Harris and Secretary of State Blinken) to attend the annual Munich Security Conference. The newest Member of the House, Rep.-elect Tom Suozzi (D-NY), will be sworn in when the House reconvenes next week, resetting the House party breakdown to 219 Republicans and 213 Democrats with 3 vacancies.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** The President will submit his Fiscal Year 2025 Budget to Congress on March 11 (4 days after his State of the Union Address on March 7) and will welcome Polish President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Donald Tusk for a joint meeting at the White House on March 12.

3. **SUPREME COURT.** On Wednesday, the Supreme Court heard arguments in a case brought by Ohio, Indiana, and West Virginia against the

U.S. EPA's "Good Neighbor Plan" rule setting ozone emissions levels for "upwind" states, targeting power plants and other industrial sources of pollution. The case is Ohio v. EPA.

4. **JANUARY INFLATION REPORT.** Last Tuesday's Labor Department price index report showed that the drivers of inflation have shifted from goods, like used cars, gasoline and groceries, which are now falling in price or rising much more slowly, to services, including hotel rooms, restaurant meals and medical care.

5. **HOUSE RETIREMENTS.** Last week, House Homeland Security Committee Chair Mark Green (R-TN) announced his retirement, becoming the 4th GOP Committee Chair and 21st House Republican to announce retirement or an intent to run for other office. On the other side of the aisle, 23 House Democrats have done the same. Chair Green joins departing House Appropriations Committee Chair Kay Granger (R-TX), House Financial Services Committee Chair - and recent Interim House Speaker - Patrick McHenry (R-NC), and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) in the exodus.

6. **HIGHER EDUCATION.**

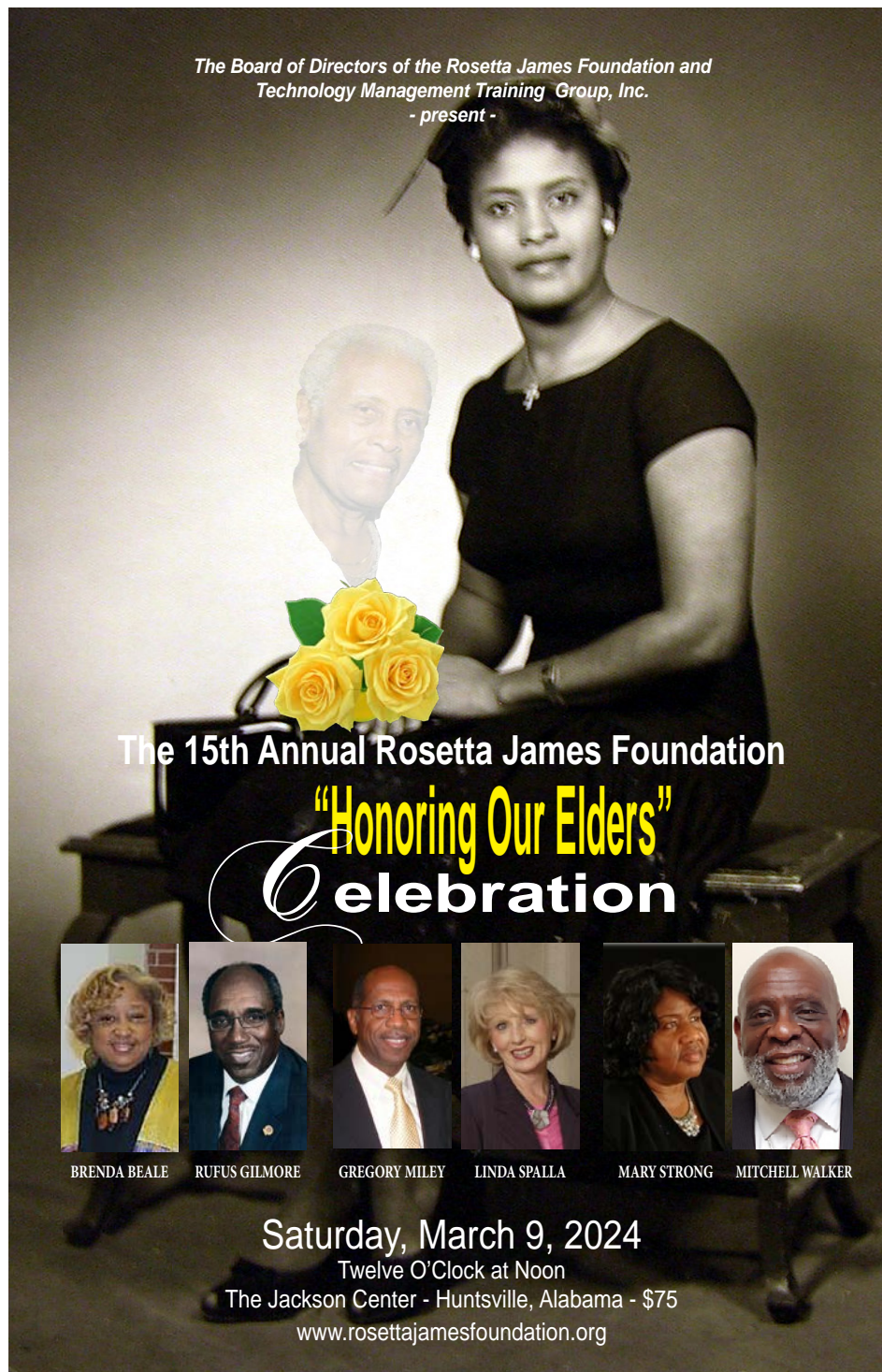
Last week, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) hosted the second of three negotiated rulemaking sessions on Title IV program integrity and quality issues, including accreditation, state authorization, distance education, return of Title IV funds, cash management and TRIO eligibility. Many of the issues raised in the first rulemaking session held in January reemerged in the second

session. They include a shared commitment between ED and negotiators to simplify processes around return of Title IV funds and disagreements over how to capture withdrawal dates for students enrolled online. Other areas of conflict included cash management proposal to require colleges to move to an "opt-in" model for including textbooks in tuition and fees, the regulation of distance education programs,


and state authorization issues around reciprocity agreements. At this point it is unclear if negotiators can reach consensus on these issues.

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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

"The blues is not the creation of a crushed-spirited people. It is the product of a forward-looking, upward-striving people."
- Albert Murray

The Valley Weekly
VALLEY
EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

February 23-24

Comedian "Earthquake"
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 Huntsville, Ala.

February 24

25th Annual Benefit Gala
 for St. John the Baptist
 Catholic School
 Saturn Ballroom
 Von Braun Center
 Huntsville, Ala.

February 29

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

Habitat for Humanity
 "Raise the Roof" Benefit
 Gala
 Saturn Ballroom
 Von Braun Center

February 29-March 2

Baron Weather Training
 North Hall Salons 1, 2 & 3
 Von Braun Center

March 1

14th Annual Black and
 White Charity Ball
 Saturn Ballroom 1 & 2
 Von Braun Center

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)
 Huntsville, Ala.
 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 Acad-
 emy
 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.

March 29

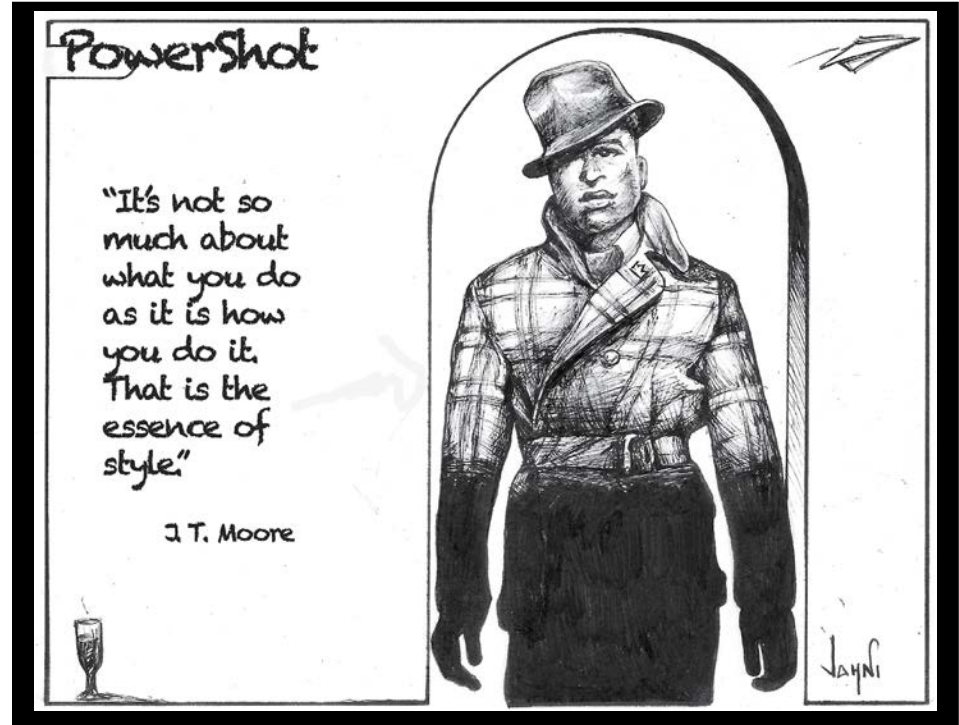
Teacher Professional De-
 velopment
 Huntsville Museum of Art
 Downtown Huntsville
 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

March 30

Rocket City Comedy
 Festival
 Mark C. Smith Concert
 Hall
 Von Braun Center
 8 p.m.

April 6

Lynyrd Skynyrd & ZZ Top
 Propst Arena
 Von Braun Center



*"It's not enough to survive,
 you must thrive."*

- Melba Moore

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*"European languages must not be considered diamonds displayed
 under a glass ball, dazzling us with their brilliance."*

- Cheikh Anta Diop

FEBRUARY 23 - W.E.B. Du Bois - After completing graduate work at the University of Berlin and Harvard, where he was the first African American to earn a doctorate, he became a history, sociology, and economics professor at Atlanta University. A founder of the NAACP in 1909, Du Bois had risen to national prominence as a leader of the Niagara Movement, a group of African American activists who wanted equal rights for Black people. He was against the Atlanta compromise, crafted by Booker T. Washington. Instead, Du Bois insisted on full civil rights and increased political representation, which he believed would be brought about by the African American intellectual elite.



- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org

Restoration ...


Millennial Moment
 by Gloria B. Caldwell

Restoration ...

It's been a long season. You're tired. Life has gotten the best of you, and you see no way out of your situation.

You have tried *everything* you have the ability to do.

All of your ideas, as well as, all of the things that "man" has advised you to do, have been exhausted. The light at the end of your tunnel has dimmed. Better yet, you can't find a glimmer of light, let alone hope!

Let me tell you, believer, God is a God of restoration. Once you let go of the wheel, earnestly pray to Him about the circum-

stance, and leave it at His feet for Him to fight the battle, He will show you that He still has all power.

In Ezekiel 37, it shows us that God has the power to restore anything! He can breathe life into any situation that appears to be dead! That means your situation! No, you may not have the answers. No, you may not see your way out. But God.

If you would just allow

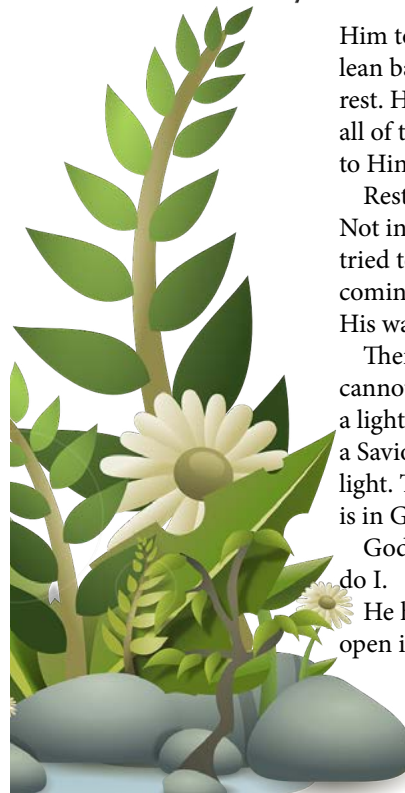


Image: Pixabay.com

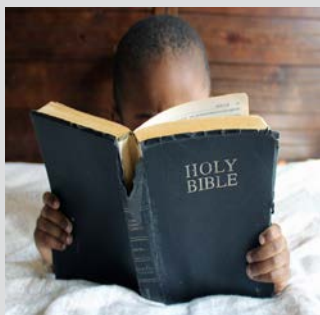
Him to move. Press in, and lean back into Him, and rest. He will move and have all of the glory that is due to Him.

Restoration is coming! Not in the ways you have tried to imagine. But it IS coming, in His time, and in His way.

There is a way, one you cannot fathom. There is a light; open your eyes to a Savior that created the light. There is an answer, it is in God.

God loves you, and so do I. He has given you a gift; open it.

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, February 25, 2024
 Second Sunday
 in Lent

(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:
 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Psalm 22:22-30
 Second Lesson:
 Romans 4:13-25
 GOSPEL:
 Mark 8:31-38

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.



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Remembering "The Black Mamba": Kobe Bryant's Greatest Winning Shots

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:9

On February 8, Kobe Bryant's widow Vanessa memorialized her husband at the unveiling of his statue at the Crypto.com Arena, his last home court, with one of his sayings:

"Leave the game better than when you found it, and when it comes time for you to leave, leave a legend; . . . And that, he did," Vanessa Bryant Delivers Emotional Speech At Unveiling Of Kobe Bryant Statue.

Four years ago, the January 26th helicopter crash killing Basketball Hall of Fame shoo-in Kobe Bean Bryant caused many to mourn this tragedy, but also to remember his outstanding on- and off-court accomplishments.

The media covered widely his winning shots in basketball games, but it provided less coverage of his winning shots in the game of life.

Kobe's Kudos

- A high school 1080 SAT score and conversant in Italian, French, Dutch, Serbian, Slovenian and Spanish languages;
- First guard to leap directly from high school into pro basketball;
- One of the first Black second-generation NBA players;
- Five championship rings, 18 All-Star Game appearances, and two Olympic gold medals;
- 102 current NBA players wear Kobe 4 sneakers; and
- 2018 Oscar, Sports Emmy, and Annie Awards!

Kobe's Calamity

The media will remind us of his July 2003 sexual assault charge from a 19-year-old Denver, CO, hotel attendant - charges later dropped and settled out of court following his public apology.

Kobe's Comeback

Media coverage, however, was not as widespread in April 2005, when Kobe and wife Vanessa held a recommitment ceremony - his marital apology.

In five years, Kobe rose from the NBA's Most Vulnerable Player in some eyes to its 2008 Most Valuable Player. "I will not make the same mistakes in the future that I have made in the past. I will make new mistakes, I am sure. And I will learn from them, too.

It's like, God blessed me with the ability to do this, I'm not going to shortchange that blessing. I'm going to go out there and do the best that I can every single time."

Subsequently, his product endorsements returned, and he died as the highest-paid team-sports player in history, worth an estimated \$770 million.

Again, so long, Kobe. And thanks for both the kudos and, more importantly, your comeback from calamity.

Tim Allston

Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time
 Amazon Best-Selling Author - Leading from the Middle
 www.timallston.com - (256) 212-0949



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

Mrs. Jacquelyne Bennett

A native of Oneonta, Ala., Jacquelyne Kyle Bennett, performed phenomenally as a supervisory human resources specialist in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center of Redstone Arsenal. She served as a personnel management staffing specialist from 1968-69. From 1969-79, Bennett was a supervisory personnel staffing specialist. She served as an employee relations specialist from 1979-84, a supervisory employee relations specialist from 1984 until her retirement in July 2015, with 48 years of government service in human resources.

She earned a master's degree in personnel administration and psychology in 1995 from Alabama A&M University, where she earlier received a bachelor's in secondary education and English in 1967.

Elder Bennett has given in service to Fellowship Presbyterian Church for over 45 years. She serves as the Team Convener for The Witness and Service Ministry Team Food Distribution Program of Fellowship Presbyterian Church. During the third week of each month she can be found at Fellowship at various times organizing, preparing, and supervising for food distribution. Bennett and volunteers work to set out over 200 boxes, drive personal vehicles to retrieve food and then unload the boxes at the church, and then deliver

food boxes to infirmed individuals or those without transportation. In addition to the list of families on the distribution roll the distribution program has provided additional boxes to families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Elder Bennett donated a customized storage facility at Fellowship to fulfill a long-standing and dire need for administering the food program and securing storage of food items and materials.

Additionally, her soprano voice has been a mainstay for three choirs at Fellowship: the Inspirational Choir; the Unity Choir and the Chancel Choir. One would be hard pressed to find another soloist to ever attempt to sing "Deep River" or "I've Been Redeemed" after 'Ms. Jackie' has put her voice to it.

Her music ministry also serves the community as a member of the Nell Lane Bradford Legacy Choir which sings at the Gala Banquet for the Bradford Scholarship Foundation, Incorporated.

Elder Bennett has served on the Drama Team and Planning Team for many celebrations at Fellowship Presbyterian Church. For the 2019 Black History Month Celebration she portrayed black educator and civil and women's rights leader Mary McLeod Bethune with great passion.

Elder Bennett is also



a member of Fellowship Presbyterian Church Presbyterian Women, whose purpose is to nurture faith through prayer and Bible study. She has volunteered to lead many of the Bible study lessons, which require considerable research and preparation.

This loyal daughter of Alabama A&M University celebrated her 50th year college reunion on the campus during Founder's Day and Class Reunion weekend May 2017. Mrs. Bennett and her Golden Class raised over \$50,000 to celebrate their 50 years.

Mrs. Bennett for 16 years has worked tirelessly as a fund raiser for the Annual Alabama A&M University Black Tie Scholarship Gala, a premier fundraising event designed to close the financial gap of students aspiring toward higher education. Last year alone, she raised over \$13,000 and, through her community outreach efforts, she has helped raise \$140,000.



"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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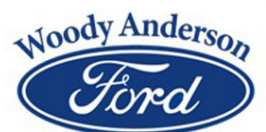


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AAMU Prepares for 24th Annual Black Tie Gala

Rapper, producer, and beatboxer Doug E. Fresh will headline entertainment for the 24th Annual Alabama A&M University Black Tie Gala, April 19, 2024 at the AAMU Event Center. The music lineup will also include Grammy-winning Rebirth Brass Band.

Known as the Human Beat Box, Doug E. Fresh and a team of fellow DJs – the Get Fresh Crew – burst onto the Hip-Hop scene with the release of “The Show” in 1985. The song was only the fourth rap single to reach gold record status. Fresh was a pioneer of “beatboxing” – the mimicry of early drum machines to back emcees or rappers in cyphers in the early years of New York Hip-Hop.

Formed in 1983, the Grammy-winning Rebirth Brass Band is a true New Orleans institution. The band is known for combining New Orleans brass band music, including the tradition of second line, with funk, jazz, soul and hip hop. Rebirth has evolved from playing the streets of the French Quarter to playing festivals and stages all over the world.



“Do Whatcha Wanna” has become one of the most famous songs in the modern brass band repertoire. Featuring call and response amongst instruments and drums, this contemporary New Orleans hit is built on the “Bamboula” rhythm played by the bass drum. Other favorites like “Feel Like Funkin’ It up” and “We Come to Party” depict Rebirth’s festive vibes and bring the spirit of New Orleans alive whenever they take the stage.

The Black-Tie Scholarship Gala is Alabama A&M University’s premiere fundraising event and is designed to support talented students who dem-

onstrate a financial need. Of AAMU’s 6,633 students, roughly 91 percent need financial aid to support their educational expenses. The Gala serves to recognize organizations and individuals who make a positive impact in their industries as well as Alabama A&M.

Learn more at www.aamu.edu/gala

ON THIS DAY



On this day (February 23) six U.S. servicemen raised the American flag over Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II.

- britannica.com

“This is the life that they gave me and this is the life that I made.”

- Tupac Shakur



EGGSTRAVAGANZA on March 23! Don't dare miss our Huntsville Parks & Recreation's annual “Eggstravaganza.” Just jump in the car/van/SUV/semi with the kids and then hop over to the Jaycee Building at John Hunt Park on Saturday, March 23, from 9-11 a.m. for “an egg-citing egg-hunting adventure.” Absolutely free for children ages 12 and under. Enjoy kid-friendly food trucks, interactive games and a visit from the Easter Bunny. *Image: Pixabay.com*

“The more I learn, the clearer my view of the world becomes.”

- Sonia Sanchez



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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!

3101 Burritt Drive • Huntsville, Alabama 35801 • 256.536.2882

www.burrittonthemountain.com

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



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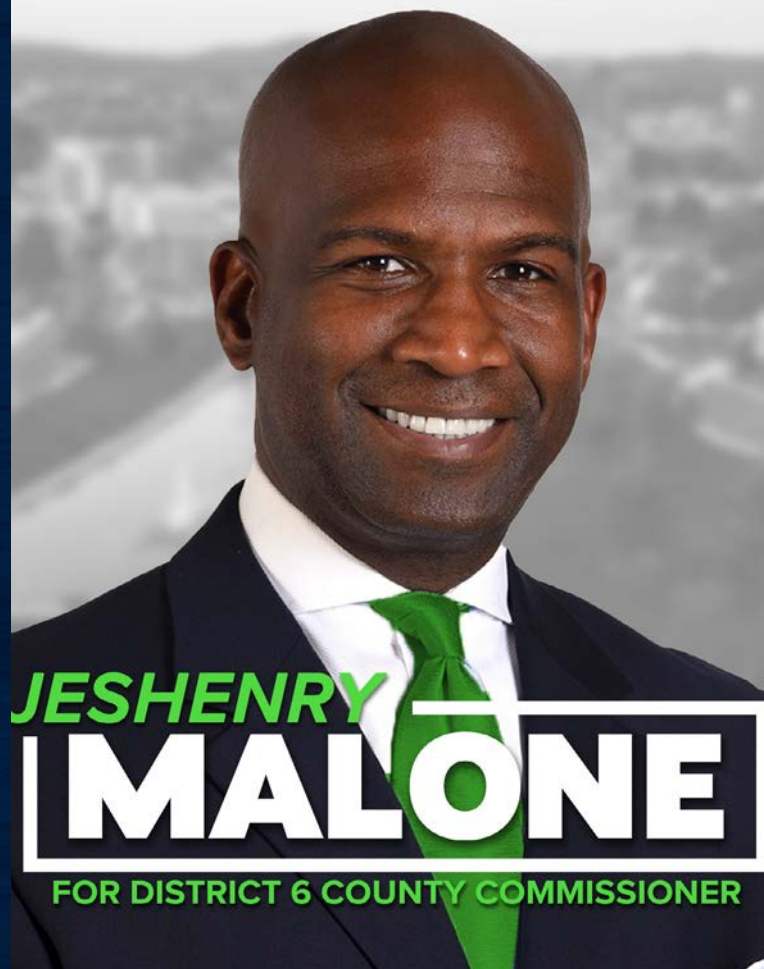
The Legacy Center, Kohler Sponsor **Valentine** Love Fest Willow Run Towers/Senior Living Apartments

Huntsville, Ala.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024



STRONGER



Together we are a strong district that is based on family, education, safety and growth. As your Commissioner, I will make sure our children receive the best education, our homes and streets are safe and I will continue to recruit jobs and businesses to our area for a better quality of life for us ALL.

**VOTE MARCH 5th
in the
Democratic Primary**

