

\$2M Grant to Support STEM Teachers - p. 6

FREE

New Homeless Initiative - p. 7

Friday
February 24, 2023
Vol. 9, No. 25
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



The Valley Weekly



"As an artist I come to sing; but as a citizen, I will always speak for peace, and no one can silence me in this." - Paul Robeson

Rosa Parks Committee Honors Huntsville's Changemakers

The Rosa Parks Committee of Huntsville/Madison County hosted its annual Catalyst for Change Awards brunch at the Huntsville Country Club. The attendees included the honorees and their invited guests.

This year's honorees were Dr. Jeanette Scissum, the Rev. Dr. Mitchell Walker, and the United Women of

Color, an empowerment organization founded by Ms. Angela Curry.

Past honorees include environmental justice advocate Catherine Flowers, civil rights pioneer Dr. Sonnie Hereford, historian Ollye Conley, St. Joseph Catholic Church/Holy Family School and the Village of Promise.

Dr. Scissum is a math-



ematician, space scientist, and diversity advocate. In 1964, she began working at Marshall Space Flight Center as an entry level mathematician, becoming the first African-American mathematician to be employed there. She retired in 2005.

The Rev. Dr. Walker has been pastoring the Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA) since 2000. He has also served as the CPCA's highest elected official, General Assembly Moderator, as well as President of the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship, Inc. (GHIMF), and Dean of the

graduate program at Huntsville Bible College.

United Women of Color (UWOC) was founded to improve the lives of women, girls, and their families. The nonprofit organization seeks to raise public awareness about the issues that disproportionately affect people of color, encourage the inclusion of citizens in local government decisions, and promote voter education. The Rosa Parks Committee was founded by State Reps. Laura Hall and Anthony Daniels in 2018 to honor one of Alabama's greatest civil rights heroes. For more, contact info@davidperson-media.com.

AAMU Garner's First Place Honors at BEYA

The 7th Annual AMIE Design Challenge and Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) took place February 9-11 in Washington, D.C., and Alabama A&M University students made an impressive showing.

In the Design Challenge, the AAMU squad competed against 12 different teams from various historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

As part of the competition, the team considered the following Problem Statement: "How can we provide clean water for low-income residents in Alabama's Black Belt region who lack access to



adequate wastewater treatment?"

The students presented a solution to a water sewage problem in the Black Belt area of Alabama. As a result, their presentation and demo won first place.

AMIE AAMU Design Challenge Team Members

included Da'Quandalon Daniel, sophomore, a computer science major; Eyerusalem Girma, sophomore, computer science; Opeyoluwa Olanipekun, sophomore, electrical engineering; Lyric Sampson, sophomore, computer science; Bre'Zhane Walker, senior, mechani-

cal engineering; DeTavien Walker, sophomore, computer science; (Ms.) Terry Miller, faculty advisor; Sharde' Estep, technical advisor from Leidos; and Anthony Steele, technical advisor from Dynetics.

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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Washington in One Minute



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

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in recess this week.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. President Biden made a surprise visit to Ukraine Monday to meet with

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (flying to Poland and then traveling by train for 10 hours to reach Kyiv). On Tuesday and Wednesday, he was in Warsaw to meet with Polish President Andrzej Duda and the leaders of NATO's 8 other eastern flank nations and to give a speech on

"how the United States has rallied the world to support the people of Ukraine." On Wednesday, First lady Jill Biden will begin a 5-day trip to Africa, which will include stops in Kenya and Namibia.

3. SUPREME COURT. On Tuesday and Wednes-

day, the Supreme Court heard a pair of widely anticipated cases of whether Google and Twitter can be held liable for content (despite the general liability shield they enjoy under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996) when their algorithms target users and recommend someone else's content. The cases are *Gonzalez v. Google* (Feb. 21) and *Twitter v. Taamneh* (Feb. 22).

4. STUDENT DEBT RELIEF. On Friday, the Department of Education released new information about more than 25 million who are seeking loan forgiveness if the Supreme Court allows the administration's plan to advance. 128 House Republican members urged

the SCOTUS to block President Biden's student debt plan although 7.2 million of their constituents are seeking relief according to new federal data. The latest data shows how the program would benefit borrowers across the country, including the constituents of Republicans who oppose it and claim it's unfair, too expensive, and illegal. The Biden administration plans to highlight that dynamic as it tries to rally public support ahead of oral arguments at the Supreme Court later this month.

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Ms. Huston:

Thanks for publishing the article about Clyde Foster, and my efforts to celebrate his legacy.

Mr. Foster's legacy is a great American story of a life lived in service to humanity. Jerome Saintjones is commended for his ability to tell a compelling story, by committing his thoughts to writing.

The Valley Weekly sets a standard in reporting the news that matters to the African American community, in a professional and positive manner.

We appreciate and value your service to North Alabama.

Regards,

Juanita S. Lee

ACCOLADES

from Our Readers

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, February 26, 2023

First Sunday

in Lent

(Track 2, Year A)

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32

2Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**VALLEY
DEATHS**



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Funeral service for MS. ANA M. PARKER (b. 1978) will be Thursday, February 23, at 12 p.m. in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor T. C. Johnson officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. DEMETRA F. SPENCER (b. 1962) was held Tuesday, February 21, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. BENJAMIN SMITH, JR. (b. 1948) was held Saturday, February 18, with The Reverend Janice Lewis officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CHARLES CONLEY (b. 1952) was held Saturday, February 18, with The Reverend Barbara Clemons officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. SANDRA "NISECY" DANIEL MORRIS (b. 1956) was held Friday, February 17, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Elder Dennis Green officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for MS. MARY CURRY HAYES (b. 1953) will be 11 a.m., Saturday, February 25, at the Springhill Church (1605 Zierdt Rd, Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Roderick Stallworth as the eulogist and Pastor Ricky D. Moreland officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. EDNA ELIZABETH LESLIE SCRUGGS (b. 1939) was held Tuesday, February 21, at the Madkins Chapel CPCA (2403 Oakwood Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. CAROLYN M. LUCAS (b. 1948) will be 2 p.m., Sunday, February 19, at the Round Island Creek Mission Center (13829 Lucas Ferry Road Athens, Ala.) with Reverend Ollie McWilliams officiating.

Funeral service for DR. BLANCHE MARIE CHATMAN (b. 1953) was held Saturday, February 18, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Dr. Benjamin Jones officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW
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Funeral service for MR. LOUIS TWITTY (b. 1941) will be held Saturday, February 25, at Moses Chapel P.B. Church, 372 Mose Chapel Road, Madison, Ala. - www.serenityfuneralhm.com

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**CHAMPION
GAME PLAN**
PRESTON BROWN

"DO YOU TRUST GOD?"

Job 13:15 says, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust Him."

You know, there is no doubt that we are living in a time when the devil is trying to destroy our faith, so we have to be strong right now. It's time to draw strength from the word of God, like we find with Job. Because Job knew that no matter what we go through, it all comes down to the same question: "Do you trust God?" You see,

Job understood that it was a matter of trust, and if we trust in God, then it doesn't really matter what circumstances we go through. Job understood that when things don't make sense and when he doesn't understand God's ways, he said, 'I will still trust in Him.' You see, Job's message is for all of us, especially in difficult times, that no matter what happens, 'I've decided to trust in God.'

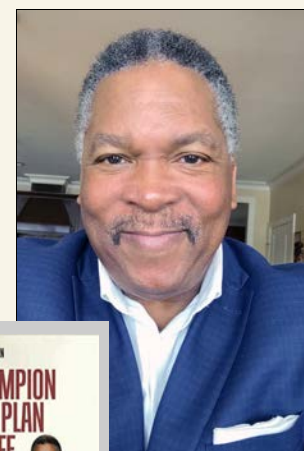
Now, sometimes we may say that we trust God, but we don't act

like it, because we are still anxious and fearful about everything. You see, if we are Christians, we should react differently in certain situations.

Remember, the Apostle Paul tells us, "Be anxious for nothing, but pray about everything."

Because sometimes we can't just "figure" everything out, we have to trust God and have faith in Him. You see, not only did Job trust in God, he also had faith in God, because faith and trust go hand in hand.

So, let us be strong in our faith and continue to trust in the sovereignty of God. Remember, what the devil meant for harm, God can turn it into something



good. I am a living witness that He will turn your mess

sage and your test into a testimony.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. Make sure you purchase your copy of my book "A Champion Game Plan for Life" at amazon.com.

FEBRUARY 24 - FLOYD MAYWEATHER, JR. --- Floyd Joy Mayweather, Jr. (né Sinclair) is an American professional boxing promoter and former professional boxer. He competed from 1996 to 2007, 2009 to 2010, 2011 to 2015, and made a one-fight comeback in 2017. During his career, he held multiple world titles in five weight classes and the lineal championship in four weight classes (twice at welterweight), and retired with an undefeated record. As an amateur, Mayweather won a bronze medal in the featherweight division at the 1996 Olympics, three U.S. Golden Gloves championships (at light flyweight, flyweight, and featherweight), and the U.S. national championship at featherweight. Mayweather owns a boxing gym called the "Mayweather Boxing Club" located in the Chinatown Plaza in Las Vegas.

- www.blackcelebritybirthday.com



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VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

February 22-26

91st South Eastern Regional Conference
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
(Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama)
Huntsville, Ala.

Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Day Gala
Von Braun Center
East Hall
12 noon
www.rosettajamesfoundation.org
(256) 536-9717

February 24

An Evening of Black History"
Council Social
Music, Movie and Food
Council Hall
5 p.m.-Until

March 25
Garden Prep for Spring
Huntsville Botanical Garden
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW
Huntsville, Ala.
\$35-\$60

March 11

10 a.m.-12 noon
www.hsvbg.org

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

April 1

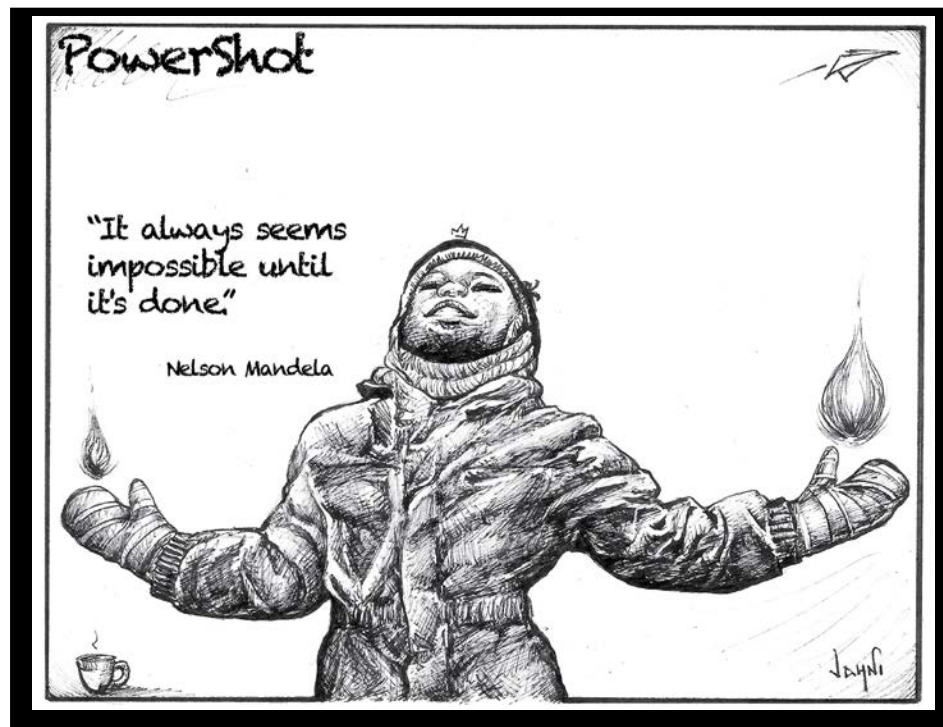
The 3rd Annual Women's Expo Event
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

April 3-9

Oakwood Alumni Homecoming
Celebrating the 3s and 8s

May 20

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



"A loud voice is not always angry; a soft voice not always to be dismissed; and a well-placed silence can be the indisputable last word."

- Gloria Naylor



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Setback to Success ...

Question. Have you ever started something, gone through the “tough parts”, started to see results, and then hit a setback... just to have to do it all over again?

What did you do in that moment? Did you quit? Did you say, “Nah, that was too tough; I’m not doing that,” or did you say, “Let’s go; I know how to get started; I’m ready!”

I know I’ve been there. I am there! What I am realizing is that the “process” is the sweet spot. It shows you the strength that lives within you. It shows me that I can overcome. It brings it back to memory. See, when I had hit my “mark,” I had easily forgotten the journey. It had gotten to a place where it had become a little easier,

or more simple. In order for me to reach this next goal, I am going to have to remember what it took to get me where I was and understand that if I did it then, I can do it now!

We can’t forget the pain and dedication it takes to reach our goals. Those are the keys that will take us through our next level. So God graciously reminds us, because He loves us, how to get through with the understanding that it is possible! Ergo, He did it before, He’ll do it again!

Repetition, although not enjoyable, embeds processes and procedures. It builds faith. It reminds me of elementary school, writing my spelling words over and over throughout the week. By the end of the week, I knew them well. just to start over with a new set of words the next week. After so long, I said to myself, “I know this process; by Friday, I’ll have these down if I keep writing them during the week!” It’s the same thing now. Repetition teaches us how

to persevere... and assures us that we can!

We are building to position ourselves for success. If we only pay attention to the life lessons. Our setbacks are setups for us to climb higher. The second time around, we do it even better. If we don’t quit!

Keep pushing, growing, listening, and learning. Keep the faith!

God loves you, and so do I.

He gave you a gift. Open it.

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell



Huntsville City Council Meetings



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

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

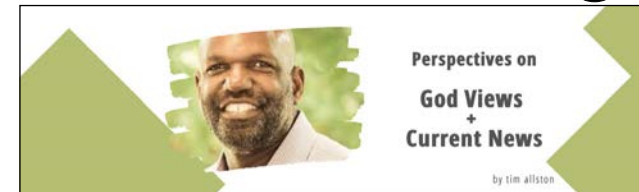
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A Soldier’s Story: A Final Word on Answered Prayer (Part 4 of 4)

“He shall call upon me, and I will answer him:” - Psalm 91:15

Yes, I know. I thought that I was finished discussing prayer with you in my recent three-part daily-bread series, . . .

But I heard a war story recently that I believe will encourage you that our consistent daily prayers get answered. Sometimes even miraculously, . . .

An American soldier in World War I was ridiculed constantly for his consistent daily prayer life - primarily by his commanding officer, an avowed atheist.

Their army unit was hunkered down in a bombed-out building near Paris. Across the road from them was an abandoned car with the key still in the ignition.

For fear that the enemy would boobytrap that car against the Americans, that commanding officer

ordered that praying soldier to move that abandoned car some 500 yards away into an open field.

Dutifully, that praying soldier got behind that car’s steering wheel, prayed for about three minutes, cranked up the engine, and then drove that car 500 yards into that open field.

Upon his return, his commanding officer stood up, saluted him, and uttered this confession in front of the entire unit: “Soldier, now I believe in your prayers and in the God you serve.

“That abandoned car that you just drove had no engine in it!”

That soldier’s diet of faith and praying is available to each of us when you and I make it our daily bread.

That praying soldier exercised the selfsame faith as the psalmist David when he declared of God, “He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him” Psalm 91:15.

Now more than ever before, you and I need to pursue that type of prayer life.



Tim Allston
Leadership Coach & Three-time
Amazon Best-Selling Author
Leading from the Middle
leadingfromthemiddle@gmail.com

AAMU Grant Will Help Create Pipeline to STEM Teachers

Remember your high school science and math teachers? What about the ones in middle school? Although it might take a moment to recall, chances are that an instructor in the science, technology, engineering and/or math (STEM) realm has left an indelible mark on your psyche.

Merging the best of the national UTeach model and the tried-and-true curricula already within Alabama A&M University's College of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CEHBS), a visionary team of faculty, deans and administrators on The Hill developed a comprehensive plan to ensure that talented and energetic STEM teachers will lead classrooms for decades to come.

The team's proposal—spurred into conception by the partnership of the Alabama STEM Council and the UTeach Institute—was



Dr. Lena Walton

funded for a four-year \$2 million Alabama Commission on Higher Education grant via its STEM Major Teacher Recruitment Initiative, modeled after the popular UTeach initiative. The funds give a green light to the formation of AAMU Teach, which will help boost the number of skilled STEM teachers in Alabama's 7th-12th grade classrooms, according to CEHBS Dean Lena Walton and Dr. Samantha Strachan, joint founders of the new AAMU Teach.

The ambitious AAMU Teach will expand the current collaboration between education and STEM disciplines housed



Dr. Samantha Strachan

under three AAMU colleges: CEHBS; the College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences (CALNS); and the College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences (CETPS). A primary focus, admit facilitators, will be tackling the barriers that have lessened students' willingness to pursue teaching or even a concentration in teaching as an option. Among these lingering hindrances are costs barriers, Praxis exams, as well as the impositions of internships and practicums on current jobs.

But now, however, the promising AAMU Teach program will operate from its location at 213 Carver



Dr. Nathan Blom

Complex Hollings Wing, utilizing a series of master teachers, support staff, day-to-day management, hiring and evaluations, all facilitated by Dr. Nathan Blom, the "Education" co-director, and Dr. Vernessa Edwards, the "STEM" co-director.

Additionally, Dr. Lydia Davenport, director of the Center for Educator Preparation and Certification Services, has amassed extensive experience working with area public school personnel. She will serve as a bridge between AAMU Teach and the local schools, as well as the managing the field placement responsibilities of



Dr. Vernessa Edwards

master teachers. Already aboard as P-12 partners are Madison City and Madison County school districts.

Other key academic and staff personnel associated with AAMU Teach will help to coordinate curriculum, grant implementation, provide wholly separate AAMU Teach program advisement/monitoring, mentoring responsibilities, information technology, organizational efficiency and other areas.

Moreover, AAMU Teach conceptualizers also factored in new and existing recruitment and retention efforts, including grants to help defray cost associated with apprentice teaching,

eligibility for other scholarships, Praxis exam support, health and mental counseling, and even payment of select expenses and fees.

As the state's largest historically black college/university (HBCU), AAMU also claims distinctions for its large pool of minority STEM majors

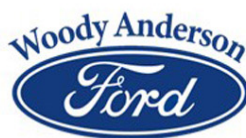
and graduates. Following a seven-month planning period, the AAMU Teach program will launch full-force toward granting student participants equally rigorous Bachelor of Science degrees in biology, chemistry, math and physics, along with the added value of a secondary STEM teacher certification by the State of Alabama.

The AAMU Teach program is planning a formal launch event in early April 2023. For additional information about AAMU Teach, contact Dr. Nathan Blom at (256) 372-5520 or e-mail nathan.blom@aamu.edu.

by Jerome Saintjones



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Commissioner Launches Homeless Initiative

Commissioner Violet Edwards is delighted to announce the backing of programs that move families from homeless to self-sufficiency. A donation of \$65,000 will be split between New Futures Inc., Family Services's Lift Housing Program, and Habitat for Humanity of the River Valley - three organizations providing a path from homelessness to transitional housing to permanent, stable homes.

"This money addresses the 'situational' homeless cases that often occur after missing a paycheck due to unforeseen circumstances such as job loss, a medical crisis, or a rent increase," Edwards said. "Thousands of people are just one paycheck away from eviction. Once that happens, it is very difficult to overcome."

According to data from the North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless, the last official homeless count determined Huntsville had 549 people. Three hundred eighteen of these lived in Huntsville shelters and transitional housing. Commissioner Edwards says this money will help agencies move families out of shelters into stable living arrangements.

For one agency whose mission results in homeownership, this funding is not just about building houses but about community and hope.

"This partnership between the Madison County Commission and Habitat for Humanity of the River Valley provides an opportunity to bring our community together and get to know our neighbors from

across the county for a purpose we all can support - safe and affordable housing for everyone," said executive director Jeremy Foulks.

Commissioner Edwards adds, "It is expensive to be poor. Even with employment, it is difficult to save for deposits, down payments, and all other expenses that come with rebuilding. My office fully supports programs offering wrap-around services to those genuinely trying to improve their situation. People on the street, let's find them shelter. For those in a shelter, let's find rentals. For those in rentals, make homeownership accessible if that is their goal. The solutions are simple, but the execution takes a village."

Rosetta James Foundation Salutes Its List of ...

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Mrs. Gladies Herron	Mrs. Michelle Watkins
Dr. & Mrs. Harry Hobbs	Ms. Xantheia Watkins
Mr. Bill & Mrs. Dorothy Huston	Mrs. Barbara Williams
Mr. James Huston	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilson
Ms. Katie Huston	Mr. Craig White
Mr. William & Mrs. Tu Vy Huston	Mr. Gary T. Whitley Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. McKinley James	Ms. Trevite Willis
Ibra B. January	Mrs. Tonya S. Wood

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"2023 Sponsors" 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.

Valley Loses Two Influential Pioneers

Born December 9, 1953, Mrs. Lizzy Mae Clemons was known throughout the Tennessee Valley for her personable spirit and her long-time influence on hundreds of youth at the Boys and Girls Clubs of North Alabama. “Miz Liz” served as director of the Center for 30 years.

Clemons was a wife, mother, grandmother, foster parent and mom to thousands of Boys & Girls Club children throughout the years. Not only was Clemons a mentor to the children of the program, but she was also a mentor for many parents.

A near-capacity funeral service was held on Friday, February 17, 2023 at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, located at 315 Winchester Rd NE, Huntsville, Alabama, with Pastor Patrick Arrington serving as the eulogist and Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.



The Oakwood family regrets to announce that **Elder T. Marshall Kelly** is now resting, awaiting the call of the Life Giver. While many considered him a vocal artist, instead, he called himself “a minister who likes to sing.” As a theology major at Oakwood, Kelly was only asked to sing, because he had a terrible stutter that only stopped when he sang.

After decades in pastoral ministry and teaching at Oakwood Academy, he was called to be the interim chaplain at Oakwood College, where he served for two years, encouraging hundreds of individuals.

Because of Elder Kelly’s “Think It Over” program on WJOU 90.1 FM for over 40 years, WJOU paid tribute to Elder Kelly during the Sabbath hours on February 11, 2023.

The memorial service for Elder Kelly was held Friday, February 17, 2023, at 12:30 p.m., at the Oakwood University SDA Church, with Mr. Eric Marshall Kelly as the eulogist and Pastor Debleaire Snell officiating.



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