

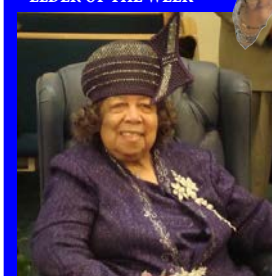


## RICE: "Portable" Praise, p. 6

Friday  
February 25, 2022  
Vol. 8, No. 25  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

**SALUTE!**

Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mother Willie Mae Draper

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

## HPD Chief Announces Retirement

Huntsville Police Chief Mark McMurray will officially retire March 1, after more than three decades with the City of Huntsville.

McMurray, who joined HPD in 1986 after serving as a Tennessee Valley Authority firefighter and security officer at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, modernized the department and prioritized community policing during his six-year tenure as Chief of Police.

"I want to thank Mayor Tommy Battle for the opportunity to lead the men



and women of HPD," he said. "I will leave the force knowing it has a strong leadership team that will help take HPD to the next level in public safety. My

family and I look forward to watching the department continue to grow."

Huntsville's top cop since 2015, McMurray provided a depth of knowledge about best practices during his law enforcement career.

His expertise and experience as an officer, K-9 handler, investigator, sergeant, lieutenant and captain helped shape the department, which has more than 800 sworn and civilian personnel today.

*-HuntsvilleAL.gov*

## A&M Board Holds In-Person February Meeting

Dr. Daniel K. Wims addressed the Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees for the first time as the institution's top officer on Friday, February 18, when trustees held their regularly scheduled meeting in AAMU's Clyde Foster Auditorium.

Following the opening of the session at 10 a.m. by Board President Pro Tempore Jerome B. Williams, Wims introduced his 12-point "President's Priorities." The comprehensive list called for improvements to student-centered customer service; the shoring up of commitment to and focus on the University's Strategic and Master Plans; boosting enrollment and retention rates; and strengthening stakeholder relationships and University giving. The plan also encompasses completing accreditation reaffirmation; expanding outreach efforts; addressing deferred maintenance and anticipating renovations and repairs; undergirding new construction via new funding sources and partnerships; and several other items.

President Wims said he expects key cabinet positions to be filled by the close of the current semester and noted that some positions have attracted more than 30 applicants. Meanwhile, additional

constituent connections are being established through a new position heavily focused on governmental affairs, relations and communication. The president will receive additional input from the upcoming formation of an alumni advisory council and an existing coalition of local ministers. Additionally, Wims will facilitate AAMU's increased involvement in local Chamber of Commerce activities.

Wims, AAMU's former provost, also discussed AAMU's ongoing collaborations with Mississippi State University, the University of South Alabama and the Congressional Black Caucus.

Board President Pro Tempore Williams paralleled Wims to Huntsville's "rocket trajectory," fueled by enthusiasm, imagination and dreams. He praised the new president for being persistent and challenging, adding that the Board is both supportive and expectant that the University will achieve new heights. Dr. Williams went on to applaud A&M faculty and staff for the sacrifices they have been making throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He also said that he envisions the formation of an association that will bring together trustees serving HBCUs within Alabama.

Trustees later approved an AAMU Online Code of Conduct and an online M.S. degree program in food science business within the College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences. The body also approved the development of a Male for Alabama Education Research Institute within the College of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. The academic affairs and research agenda section was rounded out by the approval of collaborative agreements between AAMU and two Nigerian universities.

Faculty Senate President and Trustee Jeanette Jones acknowledged meetings with President Wims last November that allowed a clearer perception of his vision and advocacy for the faculty.

Making his last Board presentation, Student Government Association Executive President Austin Smith presented an in-depth listing of SGA activities related to COVID-19, voter registration and marketing initiatives, campus engagement and leadership transition.

The Board's Governance Committee received approval to remove the AAMU Community Development Corporation from the University's organizational chart.

## Gallery Will Feature Local Artist

In observance of Black History Month, the Art Program at Alabama A&M University will present "Portraits of Life: The Works of Harold Turner" in the AAMU Art Gallery located in Room 100 of the R. D. Morrison Fine Arts Building through March 11.

A native of Huntsville, Ala., and AAMU alumnus, Turner is a figurative sculptor and painter. He has exhibited widely throughout the South, including Panoply and the Monte Sano Arts Festival in Huntsville, Ala.; The Black Art Expo at Emory University

and the Chastain Park Art Festival in Atlanta, Ga.; and

the Kentuck Arts Festival in Northport, Ala.



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**Washington in One Minute**

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

**1. ON THE FLOOR.**

The House and Senate are in recess until Feb. 28. Last week, Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY) became the 30th House Democrat to announce that she would not run for re-election, with 22 retiring from public service, 4 running for U.S. Senate and 4 seeking other office. On the other side of the aisle, 13 House Republicans are not running for re-election and the GOP will need to pick up a net of 6 seats to regain the majority in the House.

**2. THE WHITE HOUSE.**

On Friday, President Biden signed a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government operating until March 11, 2022. It was reported last week that the Biden Administration will ask Congress for a \$30 billion FY2022 supplemental appropriation to cover costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic,

including \$17.9 billion for vaccines and treatments, \$4.9 billion for testing, \$3 billion to cover coronavirus care for uninsured people, and \$3.7 billion to prepare for future variants. This week, President Biden was expected to issue his much-anticipated executive order on cryptocurrency, which would include commissioning a study on the U.S. creating its own digital currency. The Washington Post reported this morning that the President has agreed to a meeting with Russian President Putin later this week – but only if Russia decides not to invade Ukraine.

**3. SUPREME COURT.**

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court heard arguments in Arizona v. City and County of San Francisco, California, pertaining to whether states can intervene to defend a federal rule when the United States ceases to defend it. In this case, the State of Arizona (with 12 other states) sued to intervene in favor of the Trump Administration's 2019 expanded immigrant "public charge" rule, which,

instead of assessing whether an applicant had relied on U.S. government assistance in the past, went beyond to ask if a green card or visa applicant was likely to rely on government benefits in the future. If they were found likely to receive benefits in the future, they could not get a visa or green card. In November 2020, the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois vacated the 2019 Rule on a nationwide basis under the Administrative Procedure Act and the Biden Administration ceased defending the rule in court.

**4. CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE.** Republicans headed to Orlando, FL from Thursday to Sunday (24-27 Feb) for the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), hosted by the American Conservative Union. Speakers included former President Trump, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH).

Ron Hamm

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from Our Readers



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## Black History Month Special

- featuring -

# Miranda Bouldin Frost

Miranda Bouldin Frost, a native Alabamian and graduate of Alabama A&M University, is the founder and CEO of LogiCore Corporation. LogiCore is a woman-owned small business Defense Contractor supporting the warfighter with Logistics, Cyber Security, Systems and Software Engineering.

She started LogiCore with a vision, and \$5,000 in personal savings following an internship with NASA, and Lockheed Martin. She decided to focus on the Department of Defense because her father was in the military and, growing up, she respected the core values of the armed forces and wanted an opportunity to serve and support.

Since inception in 2002, LogiCore has been an innovative resource for Department of Defense, government, and commercial clients and has consistently provided top-quality, on-time solutions to its customers. Today, LogiCore continues to build upon its quality-centered service concept to forge lasting relationships with new customers.

LogiCore has supported Army, Navy, Air Force, and other government organizations, and Frost feels honored to lead "an awesome team of professionals." Moreover, the company has been competitively awarded multi-year contracts within the



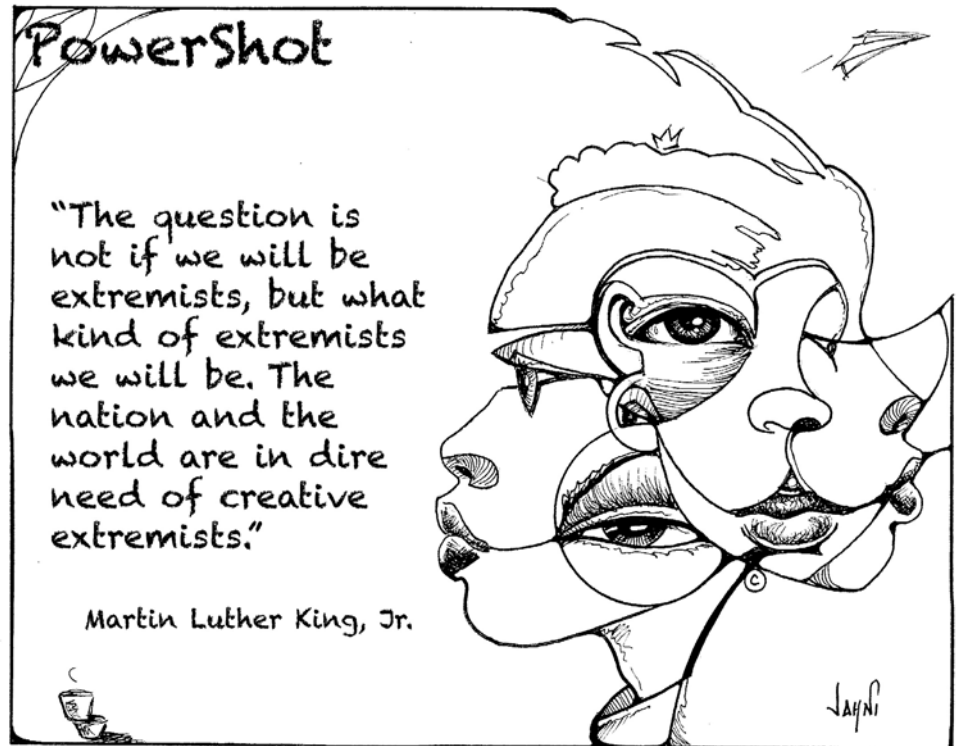
Defense community as both a prime and sub-contractor, in all four acquisition domains – Logistics, Technical, Business and Analytical, and Programmatic.

Frost has been recognized with many distinctions and awards of excellence, including WEDC Women Honoring Women Honoree; Huntsville Chamber of Commerce Small Business Award Winner; Russell G. Brown Executive Leadership Award; and The NDIA-TVC Leadership Excellence Award.

She also has been affiliated with the Alabama

School of Cyber Technology & Engineering; Alabama Commission on Higher Education; Alabama Workforce Development Board; National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Tennessee Valley Chapter; and the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County Executive Committee.

As a woman working in the industry, she is passionate about America's mission, as well as collaborating and supporting others and their desire to navigate the exciting world of government contracting.



Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"It's an artist's duty to reflect the times in which we live."*

– Nina Simone



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## A Final Word on “Daily Bread” Prayers

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 the soldier’s 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.

And together, we will win battles!

## ACCS Opens Innovation Center

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Innovation Center, a \$10 million investment aimed at rapidly training workers for the state’s highest demand industries, has launched its first of several industry-designed programs to help students find immediate employment.

ACCS leaders, students and industry partners recently kicked off the Innovation Center’s opening and demonstrated some of the training.

The training includes short-term classes that students can start from anywhere in the state and finish with an in-person lab in a regional ACCS location.

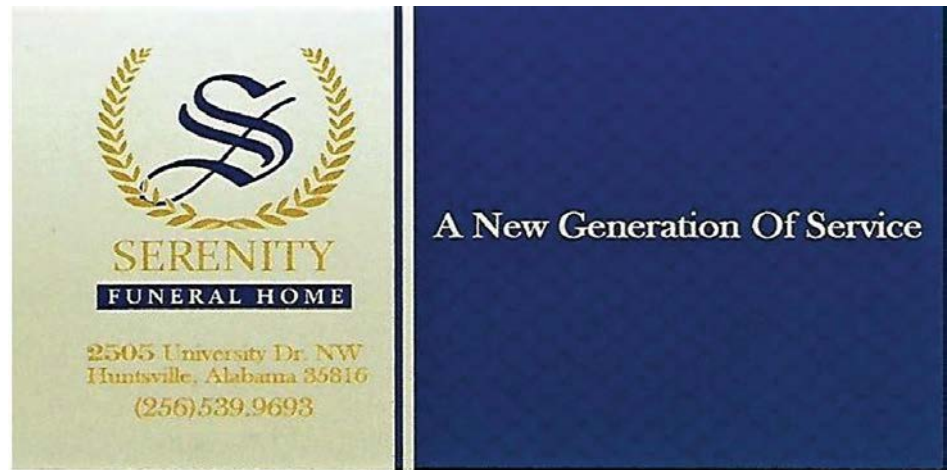
Once students complete the trainings, they are job-ready and are awarded a credential and an opportunity to earn more certifications at their local community college.

“Lawson State is excited about this opportunity to continue to connect with the great network of ACCS colleges through the Innovation Center,” said Dr. Cynthia T. Anthony, president of Lawson State Community College.

“We are so glad to see the birth of this new center as it will showcase our creativity and our ability to meet the needs of our local industries and grant us access to partnerships that will aid in enhancing the opportunities we are able to present to our students and the community.”

With 24 community colleges in more than 130 locations, ACCS is Alabama’s gateway to first-class, affordable education and technical training to compete in a constantly evolving workforce.

For more information on upcoming trainings or for answers to frequently asked questions, visit [innovation.accs.edu](http://innovation.accs.edu).



**FEBRUARY 25 - JAY CRITCH** is a Brooklyn-based rapper who went viral for his remix of “Did It Again” featuring Rich The Kid. The hit song surpassed over one million hits within the first week of its release. He put out music on SoundCloud in 2016 and blew up a year later. He signed to Rich The Kid’s Rich Forever label. - [BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com)





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

- Bebe Moore Campbell



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# **CALLLED 2 PREACH**

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## **Portable Praise**

Psalm 34:1; 137:4

I am of the age where I can speak of the evolution of entertainment devices. I have seen the stable phonograph that was part of the living room or den furniture to the transistor radio, to the boom box, to the current means of “portable” listening devices.

To move from the stable furniture to the portable was a major move. It gave

the listener access to *what-ever* they were listening to *wherever* they went. They were no longer “bound” to one place.

This was the dilemma facing the people of Israel during the time that they were in exile in Babylon. The Psalmist’s account of this tells of the time when they were told to “sing Zion’s songs.”

That was not a serious request, however; it was meant to demoralize, and that it did because Israel’s answer was, “How can we sing the LORD’s song in a strange land.”

They were like those old phonographs when it came to the matter of God’s presence and praise. They felt that because they were



in a “strange land,” their songs of praise were cut off from the ears of God.

What they needed was a praise that was not bound

to a place. God is not confined to one place because He is Omnipresent.

Therefore, the more mature stance to take is

like that in Psalm 34. “I will bless the LORD at all times. His praise shall *continually* be in my mouth.”

That’s a *portable praise*.

## *This Sunday's Lectionary*



Sunday, February 27, 2022  
 Last Sunday After  
 the Epiphany

(Track 2 - Year C)

Exodus 34:29-35  
 Psalm 99  
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
 Luke 9:28-36,[37-43a]



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

## Mother Willie Mae Draper

Mother Willie Mae Draper was born November 25, 1923, in Madison County to the late Mr. Henry Lee Miller and Mrs. Pearline Binford Miller. During early childhood, she contracted the "fatal" disease Diphtheria, but through the faith and continuous prayers of her mother, God miraculously healed her. This divine intervention became the foundation upon which Mother Draper's built her life.

In 1950, Mother Draper, under the ministry of Elder S. H. Netter, was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. God saved her husband and called him to the ministry and in 1963 Elder Draper became the Pastor of the New Market COGIC later the Beirne Avenue COGIC. Pastor Draper and Mother

Draper served until his death in 1998.

Mother Draper's most noted dates, appointments, and honors are: 1) 1985-present, President, State Hospitality Department, appointed by the late Bishop C. H. Ashworth Alabama State Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction I; 2) 1990 International Missionary work in Schweinfurt, Germany and across northern Germany on a 21-day sojourn filled with teaching and evangelizing; 3) served as an Alabama delegate to the National Women's Convention of the International Church of God in Christ for 35 plus years faithfully; and 4) 2002, traveled to Oahu, Hawaii where the Lord used her to witness to souls. She is the proud mother of three



children—Betty Damper, Pastor Dave Draper, Jr., and Pastor Jesse Draper—and a beloved grand and great-grandmother. Mother Draper possesses a saintly nature, which is the mark of a Godly woman. She is celebrated for her quiet dignity, labor of love, and Godly advice. Mother Draper stands tall as a virtuous role model in her church, in her family, and in her community.

## THE VALLEY WEEKLY ALL FOR THE FAMILY Love After 60

Now that Christmas and Valentine's Day have come and gone, those who live alone are really challenged trying to find something to occupy their too much free time.

Recently, two older adults living in the same independent living facility got married. Another couple who had dated for almost two decades decided to marry, and a couple eight years a part in

other viewed as priorities at this time in life.

Some people get a dog or cat to keep them company, while others are seeking someone with whom they can share their daily lives, laughter, adventures, a friend and a lover. They are also looking for someone with fidelity, honesty, with no drama, abuse nor addiction.

Many women's confidence has been diminished with aging. However, older

age, decided to marry after dating two years, because each provided most of what the



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

men have acquired some unwanted changes in their bodies that they would rather not display.

***You need to love yourself and be yourself 100% of the time***



"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).



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## The Rosa Parks Committee of Huntsville/Madison County

# Rosa Parks Birthday Celebration/Catalyst for Change Awards

February 7, 2022



The Rosa Parks Committee Huntsville/Madison County held its Catalyst for Change Awards event on February 7.

The Laura Hall Hu-

manitarian Award (Youth) was presented to Madison Pokey Saylee. The Laura Hall Humanitarian Award (Adult) was presented to Kenneth Anderson.

Catalyst for Change Award was presented to Village of Promise (Bobby Bradley), and Austin Smith, executive president of Alabama A&M Univer-

sity's Student Government Association, received an award for civic activism.

Other award recipients included David Person, Catalyst for Change (Media

and Civic Activism); Edyn Roper, Oakwood Adventist Academy, 1st place, Essay Contest (with teacher J. Follette); Audrey Rush, Holy Family School, 2nd

place, Essay Contest (with teacher, B. Blecher); Blessing William, Challenger Middle School, 3rd place, Essay Contest.

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Looks Like  
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