

Construction Project Targets Fitness in Northwest - p. 7

FREE

PRESTON: "More Than Enough" - p. 5

Friday
 March 8, 2024
 Vol. 10, No. 27
 ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
 Rosetta James Foundation
 ELDER OF THE WEEK



Elder John E. Branch



GLORIA B: "LIMITATIONS" - p. 5

"To be African American is to be African without any memory and American without any privilege." - James Baldwin

Drake, AAMU Hosting TMCF Scholars Program

Drake State Community & Technical College and Alabama A&M University are partnering with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) to host the HBCU SOAR Scholars Program. The program will empower the next

generation of leaders via a one-week residential summer program July 7-12.

The scholars program will provide high-achieving current high school juniors with a unique opportunity to explore the rich academic and cultural heritage of

historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

The TMCF program will be held on AAMU and Drake State campuses, providing valuable insights into college admissions, financial aid, scholarship resources, academic majors, and career

pathways. The program is free to all participants, ensuring accessibility for students from diverse backgrounds.

Eligibility for the program is open to current high school juniors (Class of 2025) who must participate in the program during the

summer before their senior year. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2024.

Contact Dr. Nicole Bell (Drake) at nicole.bell@drakestate.edu or Dr. Vernessa Edwards (AAMU) at vernessa.edwards@aamu.edu.



MOMENT: James Crawford (2nd, r) cuts the ribbon to the newly renovated James C. Crawford Park in North Huntsville. Crawford was joined by District 1 Council Member Devyn Keith, Parks & Recreation Director James Gossett (c), Mayor Tommy Battle (r) and a member of the Edmonton Heights community. Renovations include a full-size regulation basketball court, pavilion, parking spaces, ADA-accessible hardscapes and improved connectivity to the east side of Melody Lane. Source: huntsvilleal.gov



GOOD NEWS FOR NW HUNTSVILLE: Commissioner Violet Edwards (4th, left) was joined by County officials, contractors and supporters for a groundbreaking for an improved Pulaski Pike entrance to the Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center, along with a lengthy sidewalk expansion for the Cedar Point community. Details, p.7. [Photo: by Jerome Saintjones]

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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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 session this week. Last week, Congress averted a federal government shutdown on March 1 by approving a 4th continuing resolution extending current appropriations through March 8 and 22. On Sunday, House and Senate appropriators released a 1,050-page bill containing the final text of 6 fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills for debate and [hopefully] speedy passage in both bodies before Friday's new deadline: Agriculture, Energy & Water, Military Construction/VA, Transportation/HUD,

Interior, and Commerce/Justice/Science. Last Wednesday, Sen. Cindy Hyde Smith (R-MS) objected to a unanimous consent request by Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) to bring up her bill to ensure national access to infertility treatments, including IVF treatments, that have been halted in Alabama as a result of the Feb. 16 state supreme court ruling that held that frozen embryos are children, covered under the state's wrongful death of a minor law.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. Last Saturday, the Biden Administration began humanitarian aid to Gaza dropping 38,000 meals from three U.S. C-130 cargo planes on the beach along the territory's Mediterranean coast. President Biden delivered his State of the Union Address in the U.S. House

chamber on Thursday evening and Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL) gave the GOP response. Politico reports that the President will travel to Philadelphia and Atlanta on Friday and Saturday for campaign events. Beginning last Friday, to highlight the start of Women's History Month, First Lady Jill Biden traveled over the weekend to campaign stops in Georgia, Arizona, Nevada, and Wisconsin.

3. SUPREME COURT. The Supreme Court was expected Monday to issue a ruling as to whether Colorado (and Illinois and Maine) can remove Donald Trump from its ballots per the insurrection clause of Section 3 of the 14th Amendment. Last Wednesday, the Supreme Court announced that it would hold oral arguments the week of April 22 in the case of Trump v. U.S. to decide whether Trump is immune from prosecution for acts committed while he was in office and, at the same time,

ordered a federal appeals court to continue to keep on hold its unanimous ruling rejecting Trump's claims of immunity from prosecution. In a 1-page unsigned order, the court signaled that it will decide the single issue of "whether and if so, to what extent does a former president enjoy presidential immunity from criminal prosecution for conduct alleged to involve official acts during his tenure in office." On March 26, the court will hear 2 cases that challenge the FDA's approval of the abortion drug mifepristone, which accounts for over half of all abortions in the U.S.

4. SUPER TUESDAY PRIMARIES. On Tuesday, voters in 15 states (AL, AK, AR, CA, CO, ME, MA, MN, NC, OK, TN, TX, UT, VT, and VA) and American Samoa will go to the polls for their presidential primaries. Although the exact number varies by year, roughly a third of all delegates to the Republican and Democratic

conventions are awarded on Super Tuesday.

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"There is
nothing foolish
about hope."

- N. K. Jemisin

WJOU Radio Features TVW Columnist Tim Allston in Book-Sharing Episodes for March

For March, Oakwood University WJOU Radio's "A Moment in Time" program featuring local authors, <https://wjou.org/>, will spotlight *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus*, the latest leadership book by TVW author-columnist Tim Allston.

This print/digital/audio-book intersects winning NBA championship dynasties with best practices from the Bible.

Similarly, March overlaps college basketball's March Madness (or jump shots) and the Lent/Easter Sunday season (Jesus Christ) - "A slam dunk for this new print/digital/audiobook," Allston explained.

For these three-minute, twice-daily (7:40 am and 3:40 pm) Monday-through-



Friday segments, he will share excerpted book highlights from *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus*, currently ranked in Amazon's top 1%

of worldwide best-selling books, at #186.

For more information, visit www.timallston.com.

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 MILLEY LINDA SPALLA MARY STRONG MITCHELL WALKER

Saturday, March 9, 2024
Twelve O'Clock at Noon
The Jackson Center
Huntsville, Alabama

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
VALLEY DEATHS



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2505 University Drive NW
Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693
www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Funeral service will be announced later for MS. JULIETTE JETER (b. 1944), who passed Friday, February 23. Visit Serenity Funeral Home's website for the latest updates.

Funeral service for MS. PRISCILLA WILLIAMS (b. 1935) was held Saturday, March 2, at Cornerstone Word of Life Church (3738 Sullivan Street, Madison, Ala.).

Funeral service for MR. KEITH "ANTONIO" JACKSON (b. 1988) was Saturday, February 24, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

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www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral service for MR. JAMES E. STEVENS (b. 1947) was held Saturday, March 2, at Beaver Dam Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Larry Smith officiating.

Funeral service for MS. CYNTHIA R. BONE (b. 1964) was Friday, March 1, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Minister Shannon Talley as eulogist.

Funeral service for MS. FELICIA D. STINNETT (b. 1971) was held Tuesday, February 27, at Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Athens, Ala.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW
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Funeral service for MS. DIANA L. BOONE (b. 1953) was Saturday, March 2, at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (315 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Bishop George Calvin Boone officiating.

The funeral service for MR. VERNON ALEXANDER VALENTINE (b. 1961) was Saturday, March 2, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Elder Jerry Crutcher officiating.

The funeral service for MRS. ELONDA PATIRSSE PIPHUS-HARRIS (b. 1969) was Saturday, March 2, at the Fellowship of Faith Church (3703 N Memorial Pkwy., Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Troy Garner officiating.

The funeral service for MR. ALLEN BRADLEY, JR. (b. 1960) was Friday, March 1, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Reverend Herbert Cartwright, Jr. officiating.

The Valley Weekly
Spiritual Game Plan
PRESTON BROWN'S



"More Than Enough"

Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Depending on what season you are in, this scripture will affect your spiritual life in different ways.

In other words, you can read something one year and the next year it seems to take on a different meaning. This year, this scripture speaks to me a message of having more than enough.

When we seek God first in our lives, we realize that we have more than enough.

Today, we seem to live in a time where there is never enough. There is always the need for more, never less. For example, many people's jobs require more effort, more production, and more time. Even in the church, we need more members.

Let's face it: we live in a time of never enough. Many times, when we wake up in the morning, we say we didn't get enough sleep; when we go to bed at night, we may say we

didn't get enough done in the day. It's always never enough. Often, we may have enough money but not enough time to enjoy it, or we have enough time but not enough money. That's

why Ecclesiastes says, "Whoever loves money never has enough. Whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income." What is the answer?

I believe that until we seek God first in our lives, we will always feel like we don't have enough. There will always be this insatiable appetite that cannot be filled. That's why we all need to be looking for that well that won't run dry. We can only find it when we partner with Jesus and let him take control of our lives.



Let him also take control of our finances. We do this by asking God to supply us with the discerning wisdom to take control of what really matters. That comes when we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. His promise to us is that all other things—significant things—will be added to our lives.

May God grant you spiritual success in your relationship with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Question: How can we improve our relationships with God?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books, *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com, or Westbow Books.

NEXT WEEK:
"Be Encouraged!"

"You'll just have to endure some things and give up others ... everything must be paid for."

- Nella Larsen

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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

March 9

Rosetta James Foundation
"Honoring Our Elders"
Celebration/Day Gala
The Jackson Center
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 Academy
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 Development
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
Huntsville, Ala. - 8 p.m.

April 6

Lynyrd Skynyrd & ZZ Top
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center - 7 p.m.

April 12-14

Monster Jam
Propst Arena

Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

May 4

Donate Life Alabama
Donor Dash for Life 5K
Veterans Park
Hoover, Ala.
8 a.m.

May 10

Exhale Huntsville - A
Mother's Love Girls Night
Out
Huemanity Studio
Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

May 18-19

Rocket City BBQ & Soul
Fest
National Speleological
Society
Huntsville, Ala.
10 a.m.-10 p.m.

ON THIS DAY

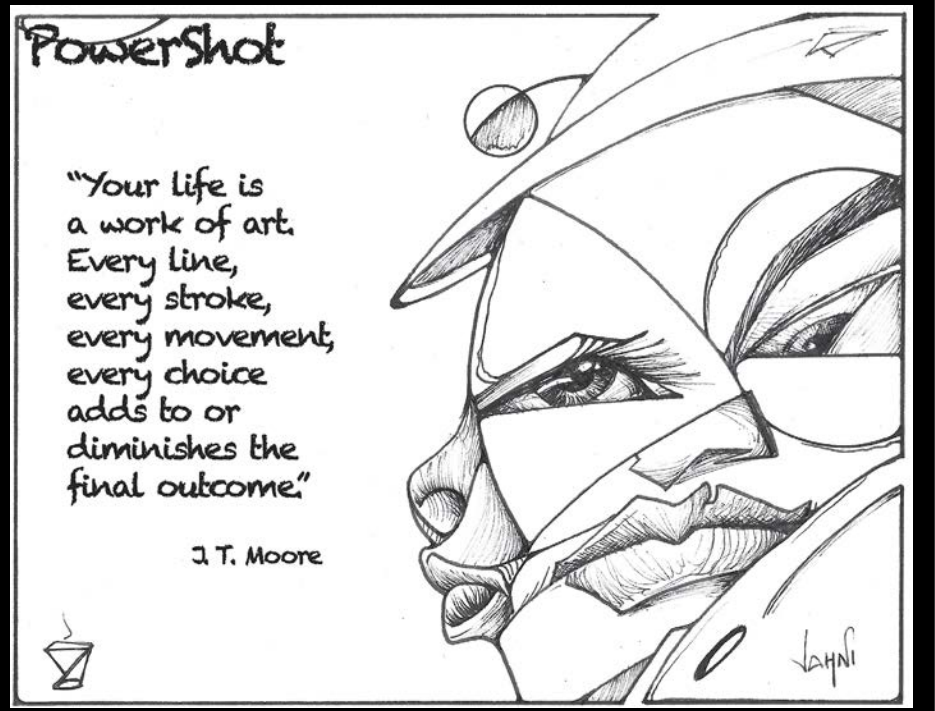


Activist Malcolm X announced his departure from the Nation of Islam, a sect of Islam that preached Black self-determination, following a rift with NOI leader Elijah Muhammad on this day in 1964. He remained a Muslim and later founded the more inclusive Organization of African Unity.
- bet.com

"There are no new ideas. There are only new ways of making them felt"

- Audre Lorde

MARCH 8 - LESTER HOLT - Lester Don Holt Jr. is an American journalist and news anchor for the weekday edition of NBC Nightly News and Dateline NBC. On June 18, 2015, Holt was made the permanent anchor of NBC Nightly News following the demotion of Brian Williams, making him the first African-American to solo anchor a weekday network nightly newscast. In May 2017, Holt interviewed President Trump, where they discussed Trump's firing of FBI director James Comey. Holt's interview with Trump resulted in extensive media coverage. Holt is also known for his moderation of the first Presidential debate of 2016, and was praised for his role in fact-checking false statements made by both candidates.
- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



"Everybody wants to do something to help, but nobody wants to be the first."

- Pearl Bailey

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Limitations ...

Millennial Moment by Gloria B. Caldwell

Limitations...

Have you set limits on yourself, believing you are not strong enough to break free? It's time to challenge that and realize the power that resides within you.

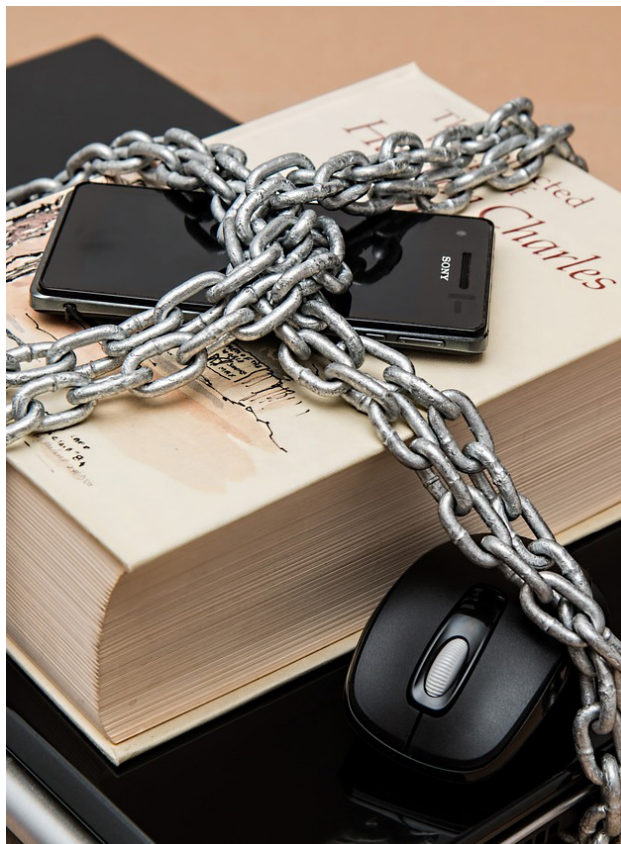
By shedding the mental barriers that hold you back, you can unlock potential and achieve things beyond your imagination. Isn't that what you want?

Don't confine yourself to a self-imposed place

of limitation. Embrace the uncomfortability of growth and push past your boundaries.

Each step you take towards overcoming self-doubt brings you closer to a life of endless possibilities.

Visualize the future you desire, free from your self-induced prison. Embrace the challenges that come your way as opportunities for personal transformation and self-discovery.



Trust in your inner strength and let it lead you towards a path of success and fulfillment.

Remember, you are in control of your destiny, equipped with the strength to surpass any obstacles. Break free from the chains of self-doubt and step confidently into a world where your potential knows no bounds.

Embrace your true strength, unleash your capabilities, and witness the incredible journey that awaits you.

Try it!

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it.

Huntsville Council Meetings



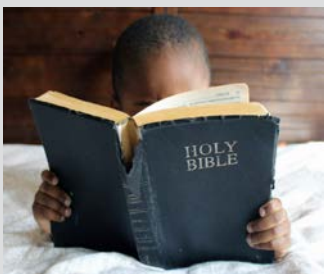
Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

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.

"People don't make changes because things are wonderful."

- Jamaica Kincaid

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday
in Lent

(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Second Lesson:
Ephesians 2:1-10
GOSPEL:
John 3:14-21



When a temporary "No" becomes a permanent "Yes."

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels." - Hebrews 13:2

Every time you and I are told "No" does not mean it's permanent; sometimes, it will lead to a "Yes."

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, my personal Synovus Banker Ms. Leteria Moses-Waters connected us by speakerphone to a relationship banker at the corporate headquarters. I wanted a Square card reader, a portable device to accept credit/debit card purchases.

The corporate officer let me down gently, explaining that I was not generating enough revenue at that time to justify that device's service.

I then told him of my goal to take payments for my upcoming book of overlapping jump shots and Jesus.

Drop the mic

Even though he didn't think the Square was justified, he nevertheless liked the book's concept, adding offhandedly, "You do know, Tim, basketball was started in a YMCA gymnasium!"



WOW, I had forgotten that! Immediately, that registered to me that I was on the right track to connecting basketball and the Bible.

Promptly and after a series of my "Wows", I declared to him and Leteria, "Man: your last seven seconds have outweighed our first three minutes of conversation; that reminder about basketball and the Young Men's Christian Association was so much better for me than my not getting a Square from you!"

Up to that point, I had been scribbling random notes for my Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus manuscript. I knew I had a good idea; I just needed an alley-oop to jump-start my potential slam dunk, . . .

According to the earlier Bible text, the follow-up response from my relationship banker made him and Leteria my unexpected angels!

From this exchange, I learned a valuable lesson: not only is every "no" not a permanent "no," but it can lead to a permanent "yes"; also, that "yes" led me to some even deeper thinking: More specifically, are there any parallels between the originator of basketball (James Naismith) and the originator of Christianity (Jesus of Nazareth)?

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

Elder John E. Branch



Brother John E. Branch graduated from Greene County (Ala.) Training School in 1964 as Valedictorian of his senior class. He enrolled in Alabama A&M University, where he earned the Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical drafting and design technology in 1968. He pursued further study at Alabama Christian College (Faulkner University) in biblical studies.

Upon his graduation from AAMU, Branch served briefly as a design draftsman for the Sperry Rand Corporation in Huntsville, Ala., where he designed PC boards, schematic diagrams and wiring harnesses for the instrument section of the Saturn V rocket. From 1969-1972, he made topographical surveys and designed roadways, runways and drainage ponds for the U.S. Army, 160th Engineering Command, at Fort Bragg, N.C. For nearly 40 years, Branch worked in Facility Engineering preparing design drawings for electrical modifications to NASA buildings and test stand structures.

He continues to give back to his community extensively. He assisted the Girl Scouts with electrical design modifications to their building on Spark-

man Drive in Huntsville, Alabama. In the 1980s, he taught technical drawing night classes for two years at his Alma Mater, Alabama A&M University. Moreover, he served on the board of AGAPE of North Alabama for two years and as speaker for the "Words of Life" religious program on WEUP AM for the past 18 years.

Minister Branch has served as Pulpit Minister of Northwest Church of Christ since May 1978. He has coordinated visita-

tion outreach ministry to homeless shelters; supported mission efforts to churches in Monrovia, Liberia; served on the policy and procedures committee for Huntsville City Schools; serves on the Advisory Board of the Robert "Bob" Harrison Advocacy & Wellness Center; and has facilitated and coordinated marriage retreats with wife for the last 26 years.

Minister Branch celebrated 55 years of marriage to Gladys Smith Branch in August 2023.

"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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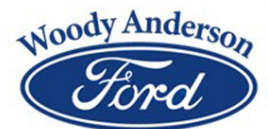


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New Sidewalk Construction Encourages Community Fitness Throughout District Six

Enthusiastic members of the Cedar Point community and beyond attended a groundbreaking program at the pavilion of the Robert “Bob” Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center on Tuesday, February 27.

At the 10 a.m. gathering, District 6 Commissioner Violet Edwards spoke about one of the latest construction projects un-

dertaken by the Madison County Commission via funding from the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

New “Grand Entrance and Sidewalk Expansion” project along Pulaski Pike, said Edwards, is a two-phase effort that is designed to both beautify the community and to offer residents “a safe place to

wheel, walk and jog.”

The construction project will enhance the entry and campus of the Harrison Center, as well as promote safety with the addition of new sidewalks, improved lighting, and the installation of curb ramps and handrails.

“We want to encourage people to get outdoors and get moving,” said Commissioner Edwards. “These

sidewalks will connect the community so that people will have a safe space to get around and enjoy nature.”

Handicap-accessible, multi-use paths will connect the Harrison Center campus to the neighborhood, allowing pedestrians and bike riders safe passage.

Edward also noted the following four (4) improvements: 1) the installation of

a retaining wall on Pulaski Pike; 2) the installation of a pedestrian bridge; 3) curb ramps; and 4) signage and pavement striping.

“We have worked diligently for three years preparing for this day,” Edwards said. “I am excited to see it come to fruition, knowing what it will bring to the seniors and this community.”

In addition to Edwards, program participants included Commission Chair Mac McCutcheon; Mat Mullin of Miller and Miller, Inc., a general contractor; and Dr. Izora Harrison, wife of the late and former commissioner Robert “Bob” Harrison.

Photos by Jerome Saintjones

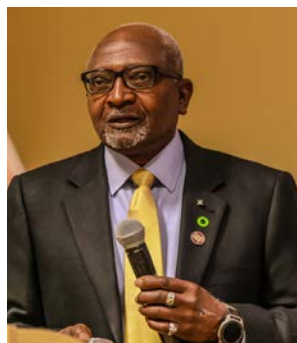


Commissioners McCutcheon and Edwards



Harrison Center Executive Director D. Smart (left) and Commissioners.

'Father of Environmental Justice' Comes Home to AAMU



The "Father of Environmental Justice," Dr. Robert Bullard, gave a passionate and fiery keynote address at AAMU's Urban Planning Conference Friday. Bullard, who received his B.S. degree from Alabama A&M University, is Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy and founding director of the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern University.

Bullard is also the first scientist to publish systemic research on the links between race and exposure to pollution. His research played a role in the first lawsuit in the United States to challenge environmental racism using civil rights law, *Bean v. Southwestern Waste Management Corp.* in 1979.

"What we found were a half million Black people in Houston, the largest Black community in any city in the Southern U.S., half a million people, were invisible," said Bullard. "I had my Research Methods class students do a study, and what we found is five out of five city owned landfills, six out of eight city incinerators and three out of four privately owned landfills were located in predominantly black neighborhoods. Jim crow did that! From the 30's up to 1978, 82 percent of all the garbage dumped in Houston was dumped on Black people, even though Black people only made up 25 percent of the population."

Bullard said the lawsuit

went to trial in 1985, after the case was transferred from the original judge, the Honorable Gabrielle McDonald, a Black woman.

"We lost the case despite all the data we had," said Bullard. "But we developed a legal theory for using civil rights to challenge environmental racism, and I had to develop the data, do the science, do the studies."

Bullard also talked about the spark that led to the environmental justice movement, a protest in Warren County, North Carolina in 1982, when a small African American community was designated a hazardous waste landfill.

"These were young people saying, 'No, we don't want to be dumped on,'" said Bullard.

"Dr. Benjamin Chavis coined the term environmental racism. In 1991, Dr. Chavis organized the first People of Color Summit. We went to Washington, we had a thousand people. We marched all the way up to the nation's capital," he said. "We developed 17 principals of environmental justice. The first principal, that people who are most

impacted must speak for themselves, and those who are impacted must have the information so they CAN speak for themselves. It must be user-friendly, it must be written in a way or presented in a way that it makes sense."

Bullard has testified on hundreds of environmental and civil rights lawsuits over the past three decades, and was at the White House when President Clinton and most recently President Biden signed Executive Orders on environmental justice.

While in Huntsville, Bullard joined Dr. Elica Moss, research assistant professor in the AAMU Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, to talk to homeowners in Athens who say they have sewage and water drainage problems.

"My job is to stand with them. I'm still standing and I'm still fighting," he said.

Bullard's final message to students was that they must continue the fight, because we still have a long way to go.

"Justice matters, where you live matters, your zip code matters," said Bullard. "Your zip code is the most potent factor to determine your health and well-being. 'African American children have a death rate from Asthma that's eight times that of white children. That's unacceptable.

"When we talk about this idea of pollution and race, America is segregated and so is pollution." We have the maps and charts to prove it."

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"I sing to the realists. People who accept it like it is."

- Aretha Franklin