

The Valley Weekly

"I know who I am. I am not perfect. I'm not the most beautiful woman in the world. But I'm one of them."
- Mary J. Blige

FREE

Volume 2, No. 26

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, March 11, 2016

AKAs Hold 58th Debutante Presentation and Ball



Group 1: (l-r, sitting): Senise Cash, Alaysia Brown, Danielle Bright, Taylor Brand, Taylor Boyd, Alysse Banks; standing: Ayana Cunningham, Maitlyn Crutcher, Mia Craig, Briana Caudle, Torian Blackburn, Tyler Cook



Group 2: (l-r, sitting): Janay Gibson, Melanie Hatch, Faith Holmes, Taylor Garner, De'Asia Ford, Jordan Grant; standing: Arionna Grayson, Sydney Harris, Ashlyn Gaines, Zakiya Evans, Kiara Bonham, Madyson Edwards, Kennedy Harris



Group 3: (l-r, sitting): Kathleen Liggin, Destanee' Martin, Rainy Le'De, Tasha Rhodes, DeAsha Powell, Candace McCoy; standing: Caitlin McFadden, Caitlynn Quintela, Katelyn Howard, Shana Marshall, Nia Malone, Michaela Maxton, Katherine Ingram



Group 4: (l-r, sitting): Aaliyah Toney, Ashton Turner, Jendaya Smith, Emory Smith, Kyara Simmons, Deanna Williams; standing: Kiamsha Jones, Brittane Sanderson, Thema Walters, Austin Spencer, Dominique Satterwhite, Morgan Haywood, Farrah Sanders; not pictured, Alexis McTiller

The 58th Annual Debutante Presentation and Ball presented by the Epsilon Gamma Omega (EGO) Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, was held Friday, February 19, 2016, in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center. Fifty-two beautiful young ladies were presented to society. The theme for the ball was "Poised Portraits of Perfection."

The more than 1,200 guests attending the affair were greeted by

Dr. Wilma Ruffin, EGO chapter president. Special guests attending the ball were: The Honorable Laura Hall, Alabama State House of Representatives-District 19; The Honorable Anthony Daniels, Alabama State House of Representatives-District 53; The Honorable Tommy Battle, mayor of Huntsville; The Honorable Troy Trulock, mayor of Madison; The Honorable Robert "Bob" Harrison, Madison County commissioner District 6; The Honorable

Will Culver, District 5, president, Huntsville City Council; and The Honorable Richard Showers, Sr., city councilman, District 1. The colorful presentation of the debutantes was narrated by Ms. Kimeko Farrar and Mr. Marc Lacy. Following the presentation, the debutantes and their escorts captured the attention of the guests by performing the traditional and graceful cotillion dance.

After the dinner, Dr. Anthony

Toney gave an elegant toast to the debutantes, followed by the first dance of the debutantes and their presenters. One of the highlights of the Debutante Presentation and Ball is the recognition of debutantes for the achievement of high academic excellence. At the ball, three scholarships were awarded. Debutantes receiving the scholarships were: first place, Miss Katherine Ingram, senior, Randolph High School; second place, Miss Zakiya Evans

and Miss Nia Malone, seniors, Lee High School. Additionally, The Eva Mobley Cathy Award was presented to Miss Austin Spencer, senior at James Clemons High School.

The members of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, extend heartfelt appreciation to friends and supporters for their help in making the 58th Annual Debutante Presentation and Ball a grand occasion.

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St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Valley Scopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

LIBRA Adopting a fresh approach will be beneficial for you, as you continue forward, striving- your mission burned into the back of your mind- along with the sparks needed, to light the path ahead.

AQUARIUS Mergers are in the air, right now. Your 8th house of emotions & intimacy are endeavoring to promote you to take that next step, & invest in here and now concepts.

GEMINI Home is on the map, therefore, the domestic realm is, too- continue to actively set the mood, and brew calm determination- setting a tone for advancement.

SAGITTARIUS Tides within your 10th house of career has been reflecting the glow of one hot topic, after another. Also, word of mouth has been a positive catalyst, making others aware, of just how much you are willing to contribute- to things that matter to you. Your time table is on point, & your drive is characteristic of someone who wants to make a difference.

VIRGO Foregoing plans are in full progression, edit anything that you must- just keep the excitement flowing, as it's quite infectious, at times.

SCORPIO Your 11th house of community is calling attention to social issues, which would do well, with your gracious input, so be sure to make every second of your time, on these introspective arousing issues, count now.

PISCES The sun has embraced your planet of Neptune, in Pisces, aiding you in the quest of goal attainment.

LEO The flow of changing patterns, within your 2nd house of finances, is looking pretty good, at the moment. Your helping hands are gradually on their way to leading into new, prominent ventures.

CANCER The full moon, in Virgo, has activities, with friends, figuring prominently, into your schedule.

CAPRICORN Protuberant reflections, from your 9th house of adventure & travel, are creating vibrant ideas, within the crevices of your mind, & why shouldn't it? The world awaits your continuous exploration.

TAURUS The full moon, which has been in Virgo, your 5th house of passion, places emphasis on your romantic musings, and the amorous, idyllic plot thickens.

ARIES Keep up those small, healthy habits, the ones that you know will pay off in the long run, with consistency. Your 6th house of health is factoring, in the background; bringing into your focal point- how imperative adhering to energizing habits- habits that destress, are.

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-proudly presents-*

The 10th Annual

Rosetta James Foundation

"Honoring Our Elders" CELEBRATION



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CARROLL**



**Mother Betty
CRAIGHEAD**



**Mr. James
FOSTER**



**Mr. Freeman
HOLIFIELD**



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*With Special
"Pioneer" Tributes to
Mrs. Dorothy Davidson
Rev. Dr. Julius Scruggs*



Saturday, March 12, 2016
Five O'Clock in the Evening
The Jackson Center
Huntsville, Alabama
Tickets: (256) 536-9717

\$50/Ticket; \$500 Reserved Table



Publisher

The Valley Weekly, LLC

Editor-in-Chief

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

Assistant Editor

Georgia S. Valrie

Editorial Assistants

Linda Burruss

Gary T. Whitley

Layout & Design

Independent

Photographer

Eugene Dickerson

- Contributing Editors -

Hortense Dodo

Dave Herron

Amoi Savage

Website Administrator

Calvin Farier

Illustrator

John "Jahni" Moore

Editorial Consultant

Jerome Saintjones

Mailing Address:

The Valley Weekly

415A Church Street - Suite 100

Huntsville, AL 35801

(256) 651-9028

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Ah, Anniversaries!

On March 12th, the Rosetta James Foundation will celebrate its 10th anniversary. When we started as a group of volunteers with the goal of honoring local elders in the community, our imagination never brought us here. Since the first celebration, we have planned and executed nine additional celebrations.



Many are honored for the work of the past; however, we honor elders for the volunteer service they continue to do. In addition, we promote community volunteerism by awarding scholarships to students who volunteer in the community. This year, we are awarding fifteen (15) \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students. Therefore, we are contributing to the next generation of servant-leaders.

Over the past 10 years, the Foundation has been able to bring several culturally enriching activities to Huntsville, including "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," best-selling author Wil Haygood ("The Butler"), and the Red Mountain Theatre Group's "Mandela." This year we are featuring Urban Strings, a Central Ohio-based community youth orchestra of serious, young, talented musicians from various public and private schools throughout

the metropolitan Columbus area. Urban Strings performs a multicultural repertoire of great music ranging from classical, jazz, and gospel to R&B and movie themes. Participants are provided with an opportunity to learn various types of music they might not otherwise be exposed to.

Urban Strings also seeks to provide the opportunity for its instrumentalists to hone proper performance techniques for their respective instruments, while placing a high value on academic performance and preparing participants to become well-rounded college applicants. During 2013, Urban Strings Half Notes and Urban Strings Quarter Notes were launched as learning and performance groups for less experienced musicians that will serve as an avenue of growth for Urban Strings. Partnering with Friends of Art for Community Enrichment (F.A.C.E.) in Columbus, the Foundation is pleased to present Urban Strings to the Huntsville community this year.

Congratulations to all of our 2016 Elders and Pioneers. We are honored to honor you. Thanks to Mrs. Rosetta James and the R J Foundation Board of Directors, Mrs. Catherine Willis, FACE of Columbus, Ohio, Tennessee Valley Jazz Society and all of our sponsors and donors for helping the Foundation make this celebration a reality. You warm our hearts by supporting our 10th Anniversary Celebration. We just never know when we begin just where we will end ...

Until next week,



Dorothy

Calendar of Events

March 10

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Meeting
"The Civil War and the Rise of American Medicine"
Speaker: Dr. Shauna Devine
Historian, Western University (Canada)
Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin Street
Huntsville, Ala.
6:30 p.m.

March 12

10th Annual Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration
Tickets: (256) 536-9717
The Jackson Center
5 p.m.

March 17

Master Artist Workshop with David Dunlop
Huntsville Museum of Art
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

March 18

HOT Coffee
(Free Networking Organization)
Huntsville Chamber of Commerce Auditorium

merce Auditorium

Contact: Vicki Morris at faceto-face.vmorris@gmail.com
7:45 a.m.

Inaugural Education Banquet for the Julius R. Scruggs Child Development Center and Academy
Guest Speaker: Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.
First Missionary Baptist Church
Blue Spring Road
Huntsville, Ala.
6 p.m.

March 19

"An Evening of Academia, Achievements & the Arts" in Honor of Dr. Virginia Caples (Endowment of the Virginia Caples Lifelong Learning Institute)
Tickets: \$100
Elmore Building
7 p.m.

April 1

HOT Coffee
(Free Networking Organization)
Huntsville Chamber of Commerce Auditorium

Contact: Vicki Morris at faceto-face.vmorris@gmail.com
7:45 a.m.

April 2

First Lady's Scholarship Luncheon
Alabama A&M University
Ernest L. Knight Reception Center
Tickets: \$40
Reserved Tables of 10: \$500
11 a.m.

April 11-May 20

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH Spring Term
OLLI is a learning community designed for adults 50+ Daytime and evening classes.
Details: Osher.uah.edu/Catalog or (256) 824-6183

April 15

HOT Coffee
(Free Networking Organization)
Huntsville Chamber of Commerce Auditorium
Contact: Vicki Morris at faceto-face.vmorris@gmail.com
7:45 a.m.

April 22

Annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala
Alabama A&M University
Von Braun Center

April 30

Civil War Symposium
"Four Bloody Years of War: Policy and Strategy, Sedition and Emancipation"
SpringHill Suites by Marriott
745 Constellation Place Dr., SW
Huntsville, Ala.
9:15-4:30 p.m.

May 3

Interfaith Mission Service Annual Awards Dinner
UAH Exhibit Hall
6-8 p.m.

June 16-19

AAMU Alumni Association National Convention
Crown Plaza-Executive Park Hotel
Charlotte, N.C.

INAUGURAL EDUCATION BANQUET
FOR THE
Julius R. Scruggs
Child Development Center and Academy
SOARING TO SUCCESS THROUGH SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS
(STEM)
Friday, MARCH 18, 2016
6:00 PM
AT THE
FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

GUEST SPEAKER
Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICINE
AND DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AT UAH

Pastor Julius R. Scruggs, D.Min.
FOUNDER

Point of Contacts: RONNIE AND FLORA DAVIS AT 256-852-4052

Women's History Display Now at HBC

The theme for National Women's History Month 2016 is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government."

In the spirit of public service, the Huntsville Bible College (HBC) is displaying the life and work of Mrs. Rosetta James throughout the month of March.

The display is available for the public to view Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily until March 31.

The items on display are from the Rosetta James Legacy Room that was established as part of the Library's Collection at HBC in 2015.



The public is invited to view the display in the main entrance to the College, which is located 906 Oakwood Avenue, just east of Memorial Parkway.

PowerShot

"Never say never because limits, like fears, are often just an illusion."

-Michael Jordan



FMBC Celebrating Scruggs' 39th Anniversary

First Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates the 39th Pastoral Anniversary of the Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs

"Leadership Worth Following"

First Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate the 39th Pastoral Anniversary of the Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs Sunday, March 20, 2016, during 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services with the theme "Leadership Worth Following" with the scripture, "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome and their way of life and imitate their faith" - Hebrews 13:7.

The Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler, pastor of the Tabernacle Community Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wis., will deliver the sermon for both services.

Dr. Scruggs became pastor at First Missionary Baptist Church in 1977. His servant-leadership style and his personal integrity has allowed the development of several ministries including the witnessing/evangelism teams, jail ministry teams, scholarship funds, congregational care, children's church, health fitness, recreation ministries and others. In 1982, he started the FMBC Child Development Center only offering pre-school. Today, the CDCA goes through fifth grade. In 2014, Dr. Scruggs completed his term as President of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated.

Dr. Scruggs' journey of pastoring has allowed him to preach the Good News of the Gospel and provide spiritual counseling that has enriched the lives of many.

With joyful hearts, FMBC's Official Board, congregation, elected officials, family, friends, and guests will commemorate this special day for Dr. Scruggs,



First Lady Josephine Scruggs and family on Sunday, March 20, 2016, during both 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services.

First Missionary Baptist Church is located at 3509 Blue Spring Road, Huntsville, Ala. For more information, call or e-mail Latoyia Clemons at (256) 457-1370, lm_clemons@yahoo.com, or Chris Robinson (256) 520-2394 or robinicpr@gmail.com.



Foundation Engages in NEA's Read Across America

Members of the Rosetta James Foundation Board, along with Mrs. James, and Elders Annie Grace Robinson, Allie Swann and John Vickers, read to the children at the Julius R. Scruggs Child Development Center and Academy (CDCA) on March 2 for Dr. Seuss' Birthday.

The National Education Association's Annual Read Across America celebration is held each year in commemoration of Dr. Seuss. Each child received a book of his or her choice. Bill Huston played the guitar, while the children sang along. Bubba Conner, owner of Bubba's Silver Spoon Catering, served Green Eggs and Ham.

Books were donated to the library by the Rosetta James Foundation, TMT Group, Inc., and Mary Turner and Friends. Dr. Cheryl R. Davis is administrator of the CDCA located at First Missionary Baptist Church.

Read Online!
valleyweeklyllc.com

Quiet Cool

by Tonya Morris Douglas

Christmas Mornings when we were young, you were always there. All the Holidays--your presence --now an empty chair



The Tuskegee Airmen jacket, those cute crooked glasses and the forever hats tilted slightly on your head The countless number of nieces, nephew sand others you lead.

You, Uncle Roland, the Epitome of QuietCool

Your passion for Jazz, the Arts and of course the garden of veggies and flowers.

Short on words, heavy on knowledge your smiling eyes held so much power.

Memories in your basement, homedewine, ping pong and playing pool.

You Uncle Roland the Epitome of QuietCool.

Bid Hello to Grandma Maude, Uncle Thomas, Uncle Fletcher, Aunt Dorothy, Uncle Leon, cousins Jimmy and Andreana to name a few.

Unselfish to a fault, always a giving heart too.

You, Uncle Roland, the Epitome of QuietCool.

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Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. | Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter

Founders Day Gala 2016

Saturday, March 19, 2016
Six o'clock p.m.

The Jackson Center
6001 Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35806
\$50 | Formal Attire

Featuring: Mrs. Cynthia Butler - McIntyre, Past National President

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AOD Career Fair Scheduled

Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

The Alliance for Opportunity and Development (AOD) is conducting its 4th annual career fair on Wednesday, March 16th from 10am-2pm at the Jaycee Building off Airport Road in Huntsville. No degree is required for jobseekers. Over 40 employers are registered.

For more details and a list of registered employers, visit <http://www.aod-alabama.org/index.php/career-fair/jobseekers>. Employers may register for free at: <http://www.aod-alabama.org/index.php/career-fair/exhibitors>.

Jobseekers can also participate in a free resume/interview workshop on Tuesday, March 8 at the Oscar Mason Center, 149 Mason Court NW, Huntsville. This workshop is presented by the Huntsville Housing Authority in collaboration with the Terry Heights Hillandale Neighborhood.

For more details, visit <http://www.aod-alabama.org/index.php/career-fair/resume-interview-workshop>. Please RSVP to Ms. Lindsay Pollard at lpollard@huntsvillehousing.org.

The Alliance for Opportunity and Development (AOD) (www.aod-alabama.org) is a non-profit that provides life-changing job-training scholarships to low-income adults in our community.

Please help us spread the word about the career fair and resume/interview workshop!

Gary Mathis

AOD Executive Director
www.aod-alabama.org

NWS Skywarn Training Held

The National Weather Service office in Huntsville held a Skywarn training session March 8, in the National Geographic Theater in the Davidson Center for Exploration. Skywarn is a program of trained volunteer weather spotters who coordinate with local emergency management officials and send reports of weather-based phenomena to the NWS.

Skywarn training gives an individual the basic tools needed to be a severe weather spotter. The training starts with the basics of thunderstorm formation, storm structure and what features to look for and where to find them. The class covers what information to report to the NWS and the best methods of reporting severe weather. Basic severe weather safety is also covered. While new technological and scientific tools have advanced the NWS capability to predict severe weather, the trained spotter remains essential to the NWS warning process. A trained Skywarn spotter acts as the NWS's eyes to the sky during a severe weather event.

The NWS conducts the training in collaboration with local emergency management officials, and sessions focus on safety, identification, weather features and reporting procedures.

Historian: "Making Medicine Scientific"

The 6 p.m. March 10 meeting of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table March will feature Dr. Shauna Devine, who will discuss "Making Medicine Scientific: The Civil War and the Rise of American Medical Science" at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin Street in Huntsville. The public is invited.

Dr. Shauna Devine is a histo-

rian of Civil War and American medicine. She has a Ph.D. in medical history and currently holds a joint appointment as a research fellow at the Schulich School of Medicine and assistant professor in the Department of History at Western University.

She also sits on the board of directors for the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Her

first book, "Learning from the Wounded: The Civil War and the Rise of American Medical Science" (University of North Carolina Press, 2014), examines the development of medicine during the American Civil War and the impact of the War's events on American medicine.

Biergarten Is Back!

Biergarten is back! Beginning March 10, this family- and dog-friendly event returns to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. A highlight of Biergarten is the weekly partnership with local non-profit agencies. The charities get to share their causes with guests, and the agencies receive a portion of the proceeds from food sales on their Biergarten night. The Rocket Center was proud to donate more than \$16,000 to 33 charities in 2015. The charities for March include: Christmas Charities Year Round, March 10; Roll Tiders Alumni Associations, March 17; Greater Huntsville Humane Society, March 24; and Therapy Partners, March 31. Biergarten continues each Thursday from 4:30-7:30 p.m., through Oct. 20. Free.



HUNTSVILLE SKILLS TRAINING

DETAILS MAR-MAY

Alabama A&M Wellness Center

Training Session	Cost
Saturday Skills Training Mar 19, 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Grades 4-11	\$224 for Skills Training
Sunday Skills Training Mar 20, 27, Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1 Grades 4-11	\$224 for Skills Training
Monday Baby Ballers Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2 Ages 4-5	\$140 for Skills Training
Wednesday Rookie Dribblers Mar 23, 30, Apr 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4 Ages 5-7	\$140 for Skills Training

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Guard-Georgia Washington
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2011 A.C. Georgia HS Player of the Year

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Women Warriors

March marks the month that we celebrate the progression of women in America. Although the gender struggle has its differences from the race struggle, there are some similarities when it comes to opportunity. The older I get, the more I understand why so many people stood up against discrimination, racism, and other prejudices; it creates a barrier for opportunity, which is an important factor in livelihood.

Opportunity is what separates the rich from the poor, the educated from the illiterate, and the employed from the unemployed. Unfortunately, everyone doesn't have access to the same privileges: not everyone can afford nice homes in nice neighborhoods, travel and leisure, receive the best healthcare, receive accelerated curriculum and more. At one point in history, many women weren't given the opportunity for: equal pay, the ability to earn top positions in leadership or the workplace, equal educational opportunity, the right to vote, reproductive rights, and more. But if one thing has been proven

throughout history, it has been the strength of women. From childbirth to becoming CEOs of major corporations, women prove they aren't necessarily the weaker sex. Our strength surely differs from men and their masculinity, but we are also strong in our femininity.

One traditional observation I like that we are changing in our future, is the role of women in society. A woman's work was mainly in the Home, which wasn't rewarded in the same financial manner as a man who clocks-in or works in a cubicle/office; thus making women dependent on their spouse. I am one to believe a marriage or union should be a partnership where both parties bring things to the table on both ends.

Men shouldn't be missing as much in the household, and women should exercise their ability to have their own financial independence. We are so



often placed in roles and responsibilities, but the key is to find what works for you and yours. We have access to liberties that our predecessors didn't have, and what better way to show appreciation than to take advantage of every opportunity.

It is very refreshing to see so many women breaking barriers in business, Corporate America, Ivy League colleges, professional careers, television/entertainment industry and more. It can be very complex to juggle domestic, community, and corporate duties, but it can be done, because history will prove that there isn't much a woman can't do!

by Amoi Savage

Drake Staffer Named to HPL Board

Carla Clift, director of library services at J. F. Drake State Community and Technical College, was recently appointed to the Huntsville Public Library Board of Directors by the Huntsville City Council.

Clift serves as the President of the Hunts-

ville Progressive Alumni Chapter of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc.

Clift is also a graduate of Cohort I of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium.



Scouts Earn Emblems

Local Boy Scouts have earned key emblems from the organization.

Troop 156 earned the Religious Emblem for Scouting on Sunday, February 21, 2016, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

Scouts Marc Williams (First Class Scout) and Joshua English (Second Class Scout) were honored during the 7:45 a.m. worship service.

Their Scout Leaders are David Stewart, Scout Master; Kevin Nash, Assistant Scout Master; and Daryus English, Cub Master.



Scouts Marc Williams and Joshua English with Pastor O. Wendell Davis

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November–March: Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 4pm & Sunday: noon – 4pm

*"A people
without the
knowledge
of their past
history,
knowledge and
culture is like
a tree without
roots."*

- Marcus
Garvey



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