

"Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done." - Bryan Stevenson

Epsilon Gamma Omega Presents 46 Exquisite Jewels

Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. hosted the 63rd Debutante Presentation and Ball on Friday, February 18, 2022, at the Von Braun Center in Downtown Huntsville..

The VBC was elegantly adorned with exquisite flower arrangements throughout the entirety of the North Hall. This year's debutante theme was "Elegant, Majestic and Rare: A Reflection of Exquisite Jewels".

Forty-six beautiful young ladies were presented to society in person and on livestream to family, friends, special guests, as well as to the community at large.

Dr. Cheryl R. Davis, president, welcomed all in

attendance and introduced Dr. Terrance Vickerstaff and Ms. Erica Washington as the master and mistress of ceremonies to present this year's forty-six debutantes.

As part of the special evening, participants performed a modern waltz with their presenters. The dance was expertly choreographed by Ms. Angela



Wilson. The Debutante Presentation and Ball was the culmination of a series of activities, which were comprised of educational, cultural, community service projects, digital scrapbooking, and social functions.

The recipients of this year's Multimedia Scrapbook honors were Miss Kennedy Russell, \$200; Miss Jada Colley, \$150; Miss Natalie Parks, \$100.

The recipients of this year's educational scholarships were Miss Daviyonna Young, \$6,300; Miss Madison Stovall, \$5,000; Miss Ferran Jackson, \$4,000; Miss Paige Jordan, \$3,500 HBCU; Miss Kennady

2022 Debutantes

Snodgrass, \$2,500 HBCU; Miss Marley Taylor, \$700 book stipend.

Bracelets were presented to each of the debutantes by Ball Chair, Ms. Terry Miller, and Co-Chair, Ms. Dominique Jefferson.

A toast was given by Mr. Gary T. Whitley, Jr.,



followed by the night's

Mr. Whitley, the debu-

tantes and presenters per-

Photo Credit: OJ Rice Pho-

formed their first dance.

Following the toast by

cotillion dance.

tography

Preston Brown's Champion Game Plan, Page 3 "Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 4 *tim allston:* Perspectives, Page 5 Rev. Michael Rice: Called 2 Preach, Page 6 Spotlight on Our Elders, Page 7



YOTY: Jamarion Willie (left), shown with Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama President/ CPO Patrick Wynn, received the "Youth of the Year" Award for 2022 at a BGCNAL luncheon. Jamarion not only earned a \$20,000 scholarship, but he will continue to compete at state and regional levels in competition for the National Youth of the Year title and a chance to meet the President of the United States. (Photo by J.Saintjones)

Valley Weekly

Publisher The Valley Weekly, LLC

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the belief of the editorial staff and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions.

The Valley Weekly Ad Rates Single Issue		
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Full Page	10x10 inches	\$800
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Walley Weekly Washington in One Minute his S addred av t



Here are the happenings in Washington, D.C., this week: 1. ON THE FLOOR. The House and Senate are in session this week - although House and Senate Democrats are both holding retreats this week - House Democrats in Philadelphia and Senate Democrats in D.C. The Senate started off the week with a cloture vote at 5:30 p.m. Monday to bring debate to a close on the U.S. Postal Service Reform bill (which included Sen. Ben Ray Luján, D-NM, who returned to DC last week after being treated for a stroke in February). The most urgent activity on Capitol Hill this week will be working to get the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus appropriations bill ready for floor action so that it can be approved by both bodies before the current stopgap measure keeping the federal government open expires on Friday (March 11) – although another short-term funding stopgap may be needed as they finish the bill. Last week, the White House requested

\$32.5 billion in supplemental FY2022 spending for Ukraine (\$10 billion) and Covid relief (\$22.5 billion). On Saturday morning, 300 Members of the House and Senate participated in a virtual meeting with Ukrainian President Zelensky, who made a plea for more weapons (including fighter planes), banning Russian oil imports, and creating a no-fly zone over Ukraine's airspace. 2. THE WHITE HOUSE. Last Saturday evening, President Biden spoke to Ukrainian President Zelensky for 30 minutes, which followed the President's announcement last Thursday that he was granting temporary protected status (TPS) to about 34,000 Ukrainian nationals who arrived in the U.S. on or prior to March 1, 2022, which will allow them to legally live and work in the U.S. for the next 18 months. On Tuesday, the President travel led to Fort Worth, TX to speak about legislation to care for veterans exposed to toxic chemicals while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan (a plank from his State of the Union address). On Wednesday, the President spoke to Senate Democrats at their retreat in D.C. On Friday, the President will travel to Philadelphia to address House Democrats on the last day of their 3-day retreat. On Wednesday through Friday, Vice President Harris travelled to Poland and Romania to meet with the nation's leaders

to coordinate their response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and discuss how the U.S. can further support them as they admit Ukrainian refugees fleeing the conflict. On Monday and Tuesday, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden travelled to Phoenix and Tucson, AZ and Reno, NV to discuss job training and cancer treatment programs. On Wednesday, the First Lady visited Fort Campbell, KY to meet with the families of U.S. soldiers deployed to Europe in support of our NATO allies. Secretary of State Blinken is began a visit to Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia to reassure them of NATO protection and American support. 3. JUDGE JACKSON HEARING. Last week, Senate Iudiciary Chair Richard Durbin (D-IL) announced committee hearings on the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Kentanji Brown Jackson will begin on March 21 and will last 4 days, with the goal of Senate confirmation by early April.

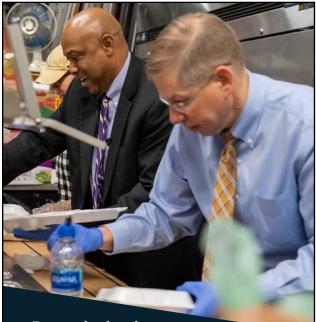
HUNTSVILLE AREA MPO Public Meeting Notice

<u>Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Meetings</u> The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet Monday, March 14, 2022 at 5:00 pm on the <u>T^{IH} FLOOR</u>. The Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board meets on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 4:00 pm on the 1st floor of Huntsville City Hall located at 308 Fountain Circle, unless otherwise noted on the Huntsville-Area MPO website at <u>www.huntsvillempo.org</u>. To review items on the agenda for this meeting visit: <u>http://www.huntsvillempo.org/plans-and-reports/</u> For all other information on these meetings visit: <u>http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetingsand-agendas/</u>

4. FED INTEREST RATE HIKES. Last week, in testimony before the House Financial Services Committee, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell confirmed that the Fed is likely to raise interest rates by a quarter percentage point at its March 15-16 meeting - although he will proceed carefully as the U.S. economy reacts to the Ukraine war. Powell also said he expects a series of interest rate increases this year and said that he could support raising rates by larger increments if inflation fails to moderate sufficiently. 5. WORKFORCE ISSUES.

On Wednesday, March 9, the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development held a hybrid hearing titled "Skill, Upskill, and Reskill: Analyzing New Investments in Workforce Development." The hearing examined what is contributing to the national workforce shortage as well as potential solutions, such as changes to the workforce development system, and the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Ron Hamm Hamm Consulting Group 444 North Capitol Street, NW Suite 840

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Funeral service for MR. NOBLE JONES (b. 1952) was held Sunday, March 6, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Cornell Martin officiating.

Funeral service for MR. RAIMON LAMAR PERRY (b. 1979) was held Saturday, March 5, at Hope Community Church with Bishop Charles Rodgers officiating.

Graveside service for MR. MICHAEL RAY, JR. (b. 1987) was held Saturday, March 5, at Faith Memorial Park with Elder Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery, Sr., officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. FLORENCE A. OLUGBODE (b.1948) was held Saturday, March 5, at Redeemed Christian Church of God (4906 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.).

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Rosary for MR. ERICK GUEVARA-PARADA (b. 1997) will be at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 13, at El Opry Event Center (24861 Airport Road Athens, Ala.).

Funeral service for MRS. CHRISTELLA GREEN (b. 1948) was held Tuesday, March 8, at the St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Belafonte Ave NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Derrick Langford officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CHARLES HALL (b. 1937) was held Tuesday, March 8, at True Light Church of God in Christ (6380 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor T.C. Johnson officiating.

Graveside service for MR. JONATHAN TERRELL JONES (b. 1980) was held Saturday, March 5, in Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.) with Pastor T.C. Johnson officiating.

Graveside service for MR. WOODY CLAY (b. 1944) was held Friday, March 4, in Clay Cemetery (Gurley, Ala.) with Reverend Johnny Jones officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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Funeral service for MR. JaSHAWN DOUGLAS (b. 1998) was held Saturday, February 26, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Funeral service for MR. CAMRAN PRICE (b. 2006) will be announced at a later date.



March 16 Madison County Commission Meeting 7th Floor Madison County Courthouse 100 Northside Square Huntsville, Ala. 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

March 17

St. Patrick's Day \$5 After 5 with Diana Lucas Huntsville Museum of Art 5-8 p.m.

March 18-20

Arnez J Stand Up Live Huntsville 2012 Memorial Parkway SW Huntsville, Ala. (256) 261-3374

March 23

"Cartooning" After School Classes (Wednesdays Thru April 27) Huntsville Museum of Art \$85-\$100 - 4-5:30 p.m.

March 26

Kenny G Mark C. Smith Concert Hall Von Braun Center Huntsville, Ala. - 7:30 p.m.

April 8

Earthquake Stand Up Live Huntsville 2012 Memorial Parkway SW Huntsville, Ala. (256) 261-3374

April 29

Investiture for Daniel K. Wims 12th President of Alabama A&M University T.M. Elmore Building 10 a.m.



"STAYING COMMITTED"

In Matthew 4:1, it says: "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."

Jesus overcame the devil's temptations because He was committed to completing the task that God had called Him to do. His mind was set and there were no options. Today, I believe that we need to be committed, as well, with no options as it pertains to our spiritual, emotional and social development. This means no giving up, no backing down, no changing your mind, no wavering back and forth, no options. Too many times we give ourselves too many

options that create too many distractions that make us change our mind from what God has called us to do,

which is to stay committed. When we read this scripture, we can see that Jesus was committed. No matter how hard the devil tries to get Jesus to change his mind and follow him, Jesus stays committed. And, I don't know about you, but I'm glad he did because where would we be if he had not staved committed to his calling? Now to commit means to bind or obligate oneself to a promise or a course of action that one intends to take. When we are committed, we are dedicated and loyal to a cause or activity or a job wholeheartedly. So, let us all learn how to be committed and stay committed.

Also, when we enter into a relationship with someone, we need to stay committed. When we get that job that we had been hoping for, stay committed. When we

ted. When we decide to make changes in our lives to better ourselves, we need to stay committed, and our commitment needs to be influenced by God. Because when your commitment is influenced by God, you will have a better chance at staying committed ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my book, "A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE," at amazon.com.



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Black Website Hones in on HBCU Endowments PowerShot

Although HBCUs play a key role in educating Black students, they are underfunded, notes The Plug (tpinsights.com). Although they make up just three percent of America's colleges and universities, HBCUs are responsible for more than 20 percent of African American graduates, but they lack endowment and resources.

Following is a breakdown of the largest HBCU endowments, their growth and their decline: 1) Howard University: \$712.5 million 2) Spelman College: \$377.9 million 3) Hampton University: \$280.6 million 4) Meharry Medical Col-

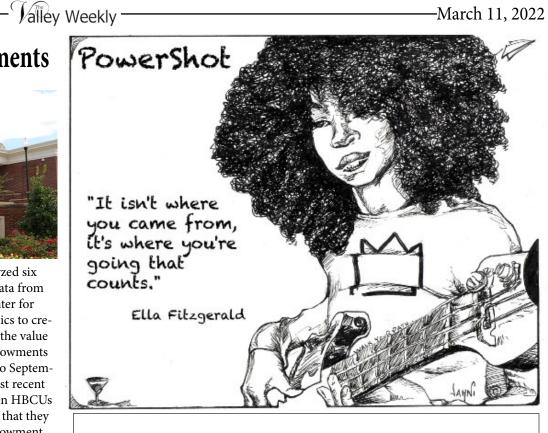


lege: \$179.5 million 5) Morehouse College: \$157.1 million 6) Xavier University of Louisiana: \$147 million 7) Tuskegee University: \$123.4 million 8) Alabama State University: \$111.3 million 9) Morehouse School of Medicine: \$108.2 million 10) Dillard University: \$92 million

The Plug analyzed six years' worth of data from the National Center for Education Statistics to create a database of the value of all HBCU endowments from June 2015 to September 2020, the most recent data available. Ten HBCUs reported in 2020 that they did not have endowment assets.

- tpinsights.com





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> "I want them to them to see my soul, and that is colorless."

> > - Marian Anderson

March 11, 2022 —



Perspectives on **God Views Current News**

Jesus the Nazarene and the '22 Winter Olympics

For the past two weeks, many medalwinning U.S. Winter Olympians returned to hometown celebrations: parades, recognition banquets, and even some streets renamed in their honor.



But their Olympic achievements could not have happened until they left home and its comforts.

Jesus' reception was quite the opposite of the Olympians when he returned home to Nazareth, however. When his fellow Nazarenes rejected his teaching, Jesus pined in Matthew 13:57, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown."

Although their hometown receptions were different, both Jesus and the Winter Olympic medalists learned the same lesson: sometimes you have to leave home to achieve world recognition.

Erin Jackson could not have become a Winter

Olympic speed skating gold medalist if she had remained in her hometown of Ocala, Florida, where she began as a roller skater. Ocala, Florida, did not lend itself to Winter Olympic speedskating!



Likewise, if Jesus had stayed in Nazareth he never would have expanded his ministry beyond its city limits. Erin Jackson left Ocala and became a world-recognized champion; Jesus left his hometown and became the founder of Christianity, recognized as the world's largest religion with 3.6 billion followers. Each milestone was achieved when they left home and its presumed comforts.



Comfort is the enemy of achievement, Chicago businessman Farrah Gray once said. Too many of us would prefer the comfort of home and familiar surroundings; often, however, we fail to achieve our fullest potential

there. In the case of Erin Jackson and Jesus Christ, leaving home allowed them to expand their legacies.

Are you ready to grow and realize your maximum potential?

Consider the Jesus and Jackson model: reach out on faith, stretch yourself, and prepare for a new reality that will benefit you and yes, perhaps even your hometown!



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Rosetta James Items Displayed at HBC

Special items and memorabilia from the life and works of the late voter rights advocate and Huntsville volunteer Rosetta James are currently on display for many of her friends and supporters to view.

James was born in 1925 in Akron, Ala. She worked with children, the elderly, and the incarcerated as a lay minister to female jail inmates. She was a member of First **Missionary Baptist** Church in Huntsville, Ala., and she received over 50 honors, awards, and commendations from organizations and agencies, including Alabama A&M University, the NAACP and Greater Huntsville Chapter of 100 Black Men of America (2017). A "Rosetta James Room" was named in her honor at First Missionary Baptist Church (Huntsville, Ala.) and the Huntsville Bible College.

Items from the Rosetta James Foundation are now on display at Huntsville Bible College, located at 906 Oakwood Avenue.

For additional information, contact Eloise McNealey, events coordinator at HBC, at (256) 469-7536.



(256) 539.9693

MARCH 11 - TERRENCE HOWARD - Howard looks for characters that "teach him about himself." For the 2005 film Hustle & Flow, he portrayed an aspiring rapper, and performed all the character's tracks, including "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp", which won the Academy Award for Best **Original Song.**" - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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"The voice gets to the soul of a person more than any other instrument."

- Bobby McFerrin



Tearing Down the Poles of Asherah



2 Chronicles 17:3-6; 1 Kings 15:14 Every leader who is engaged in spiritual leadership of any kind, be it parent, pastor, or potentate, must have what is known as theological integrity. This is not just about being biblically correct and rightly dividing the word of truth, but also displaying a life that is *visible, verifiable, and* proves to be *vital* to those they lead. That is not to say that that leader is to be seen as someone to be worshipped, but rather one who has dedicated themselves to leading in a godly way.

Valley Weekly

It was said of Jehoshaphat, King of Judah that the LORD was with him because he *followed the ways of his father David.* He did not seek Baal, but instead sought God and followed His commands. *His heart was devoted to the ways of the LORD.*

His devotion was in his heart and the LORD could see it, but one of the ways



that he made it *visible and verifiable* to all of Judah was by *tearing down the poles of Asherah.* King Asa's heart was *fully committed* to the LORD but he did not remove the idols. This may seem like a small thing, but in the eyes of God, it was worth mentioning, which begs one's attention. It was in Asa' s heart but he did not make it *visible and verifiable*. Are there some poles of Ashera that need tearing down in your life? *Search me*, *O God*.

CFR Offering Internship Opportunities

At the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR), headquartered in New York City and with heavy presence in Washington, interns do work that matters alongside smart and dedicated staff in a diverse and inclusive environment.

Interns are paid a competitive hourly wage while gaining valuable experience through exposure to leading foreign policy experts.

They are also offered professional development training as a foundation for future work in the field of foreign policy and international affairs. Internship opportunities are offered through the Blavatnik Internship Program and Robina Franklin Williams Internship Program.

An intern's duties generally consist of research, editing and writing,



event coordination, and/ or departmental support. Internships are offered in Digital Content, the Studies Program, Global Communications, Corporate Program, Washington Program, Meetings Program and many more, including Foreign Affairs.

Interns participate in CFR's Intern Professional Development program, which complements their substantive work with a series of skill-based workshops, training, and career advice sessions.

These events are designed to improve interns' writing, editing, research, and program planning skills, while also helping to sharpen interns' resumes and familiarize them with the multitude of foreign policy career paths and beyond.

CFR's summer 2022 internship program gives interns the opportunity to choose whether to work in our office in a hybrid capacity (half in the office, and half remote), or on an offsite fully remote basis.

Interns are paid a competitive hourly wage.

Since this is a paid opportunity, interns must have the legal right to work for any employer in the United States.

Applications are rolling, and internships are open until filled.

More information, visit us at: https://www.cfr.org/ career-opportunities/internships.



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Valley Weekly

Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring Elder T. Marshall Kelly

T. Marshall Kelly, a bassbaritone singer and composer, has enjoyed a career as an internationally known soloist, ordained minister, radio personality, and awardwinning religion teacher in the Seventh-day Adventist church. From his earliest years, religion and music have been focal points in his life.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Marshall, the only child of the late Louis and the late Mary Kelly, began singing in a male quartet at age twelve. He attended Oakwood Academy and College, now University, where he sang in the OC male chorus and in its popular male quartet, the Velvetones, before transferring to Emmanuel Missionary College, now Andrews University, in the early 1950s to earn an accredited four-year degree.

Kelly gained recognition for the resonant quality of his voice while at EMC and was a charter member of the Collegians, a newly formed select choral group conducted by Melvin Davis. In his senior year, he served as pastor of his class and was a featured soloist in the college orchestra's April "pops" concert, at which he sang four solos.

Following graduation from EMC in 1952 with a degree in religion, Kelly became a pastor in Chicago, and in December 1952, married Garnet Jean Garland from Cleveland, Ohio.a graduate of Pine Forge Academy in Pennsylvania. They would have a son, Eric, and a daughter, Nadine.

In the next 25 years, Kelly would serve in the Lake Region Conference, pastoring at Fort Wayne, Marion, and Muncie, Indiana; Inkster, Michigan; Chicago again; and in the Burns Avenue Church in Detroit. During those years he enjoyed great success as a pastor and evangelist and as a sought-after singer.

A highlight of those years was his assisting E. E. Cleveland, legendary preacher and evangelist, with the music in a nearly two-month long evangelistic crusade in Australia in 1971. Hundreds were converted by their efforts through the power of Cleveland's persuasive speaking and Kelly's deeply-felt singing. Cleveland observed at that time, "The rich velvet voice of T. Marshall Kelly was an indispensable blessing to the success of the campaign. He was accorded the supreme tribute of being rated as a 'second Paul Robeson.' "

In the following year, both men worked together again in another two-month successful crusade in Detroit. During the early years of this decade, Kelly also made two records, All That Thrills My Soul and It Takes Everything to Serve the Lord, which were released by Chapel Records.



In 1976 when the Australians planned a huge youth rally, they invited Kelly to return to speak and sing because they had been so taken with his voice during his earlier visit to that continent.

Kelly continued to sing and speak while teaching at the academy, giving numerous benefit concerts and presenting programs at churches and schools. In the 1980 General Conference session, he was a featured singer and in 1991 he again assisted E. E. Cleveland with music along with other noted Adventist musicians in another crusade, this time in Nashville. Six years later, he assisted in campaigns held in South Africa and has since participated in Voice of Prophecy Family Reunion Concerts and Maranatha 2000! and been a speaker and singer on 3ABN.

Kelly retired in 1995 and now lives in Huntsville.



"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.

Huntsville Begins Touchless Fare

Huntsville Transit customers are now able to purchase fares and to board a local bus with just a few swipes of an app.

A week ago, Token Transit started to be accepted on all Orbit and Access buses. The new app makes it easier for smartphone users to ride while also providing a contactless payment method for operators.

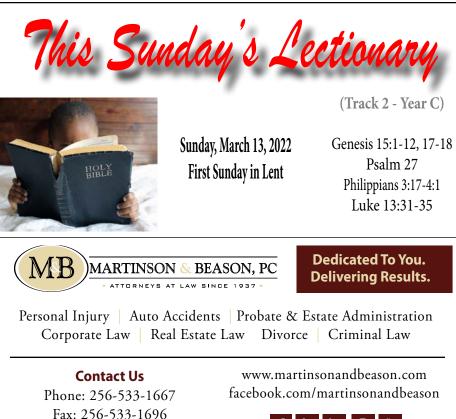
The Token Transit app is available in the App Store for iPhone and Google Play for Android devices.

"This is an exciting step toward making public transportation easier to use and more accessible for everyone," Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said. "Smartphones are such an integral part of our daily lives, so being able to board a bus using an app seems like a natural extension."

But just what is Token Transit? Based in San Francisco, Token Transit's mission is to provide an easy and convenient rider experience. The app allows riders to purchase fares and board a bus by showing the driver a pass on their phone.



Quisha Riche Bryant, director of parking and public transportation for the City of Huntsville, said Token Transit would provide several benefits to Huntsville Transit, including decreased costs, improved service and an increase in the number of riders.



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No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

info@martinsonandbeason.com

Huntsvillians, Students Attend AHA Annual Program

Montgomery, Alabama - February 28, 2022



A group of Huntsville residents and college students recently attended the annual meeting of the Alabama Humanities Alliance (AHA) in Montgomery, Ala. Huntsville-area residents Dorothy W. Huston and Dr. John serves on the 26-member AHA board. Regions was presenting sponsor.

The gathering honored two of AHA latest Alabama Humanities Fellows: Bryan Stevenson ("Just Mercy") and the late civil rights icon John Lewis.

Among the traveling guests were eight Honors Program students (above) from Alabama A&M University, including Amani Blair, Tomia Gordon (student lead), Rashad Harris, Demarieo James, Brandon Jenkins, Soniah Jones, Cassidy McClella and Mark Pecke. Their attendance was cordinated by Carla Draper-Holloway, assistant director of AAMU's Honors Program.

Stevenson, the honoree/guest presenter for the luncheon, is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Ala.

The Harvard Law School graduate is the author of the memoir "Just Mercy," which focuses on the injustices of the American legal system.



Stevenson's presentation doubled as an interview between the attorney and NPR correspondent Michel Martin (below).

The family of the late John Lewis was invited

to the stage during the program.

The event also featured an original poem presented for the occasion by Alabama's new poet laureate, Ashley M. Jones. Among the Huntsvillians in attendance were William Huston, Sr., Gary T. Whitley, Jr., Jalissa Williams, Morgan Saintjones (The Legacy Center) and Jerome Saintjones.

Based in Birmingham, AHA gives all Alabamians opportunities to explore the humanities through funded public programs such as seminars, workshops, lectures, exhibitions, documentaries and more.

