



Zeta 2016 Youth Hall of Fame Inductees: (l-r): Carliss Spencer-Buckhorn High School; Alisha Lee-Sparkman High School; and Zakiya Evans- Lee High School. Not Pictured: Caitlyn Quintela-Huntsville High School and Michaela Maxton-New Century High



L-R: Carol Harris, scholarship chair; Lamshameron Perkins, member; Pam Readus, chapter president; and Denise Long, Finer Womanhood chair.



HONOREES: Community HOPE Award recipient Captain Jeffery Rice; Community Educator of the Year recipient, Dr. Rhonda Lang; Community Woman of the Year recipient, Micah Logan; and Community Man of the Year recipient, Trent Griffin.



Dr. George Grayson and Denise Long, Finer Womanhood chair.

Zetas Observe Finer Womanhood

Delta Omega Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, celebrated its Finer Womanhood Observance on Sunday, March 20, 2016, at Fellowship Presbyterian Church at 3:30 p.m. Five \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to area high school students to aid in their collegiate matriculation. The "Zeta of the Year" (Soror Mildred Fields) was also serenaded. Four community leaders were honored for their exemplary service. Councilman Will Culver issued a proclamation declaring March 20, 2016, as Zeta Finer Womanhood Day in Huntsville. The event was chaired by Denise Long. Pam is Readus is president.

Plans Underway for Earth Day

Alabama Extension to Participate in Earth Day 2016 Activities

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Urban Affairs and New Non-traditional Programs unit (Urban Affairs) will participate in two upcoming Earth Day events.

The first event is the 46th Annual Earth Day Festival and Farmer's Market that will be held at the Monte Sano State Park Picnic Area on Sunday, April 17, 2016; from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Participants will have a chance to view more than 70 exhibits, including a water conservation demonstration by Extension's own Rhonda Britton. Britton helps to manage Water Wheels, a 36-foot mobile water conservation laboratory.

Urban Affairs also plans to participate in Operation Green Team's 2016 Earth Day Festival at Hays Nature Preserve on Saturday, April 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Hays Nature Preserve is located at 7161 US Highway 431 South in the Hampton Cove area.

This event is free and features more than 70 organizations and businesses with activities, animal exhibits, demonstrations, take-home crafts, giveaways, and



information.

For the past two years, Urban Affairs has been a sponsor of the butterfly release, one of the most anticipated Earth Day activities at Hays Nature Preserve, and will do so again this year. The butterfly release will take place at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

More than 11,000 individuals attended Operation Green Team's Earth Day Festival in 2015. This year Operation Green Team is expecting another record-breaking crowd. Earth Day activities at Hays Nature Preserve will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

For general information, please contact Dr. Karnita Garner at (256) 372-8331 (kfg0003@aamu. edu) or Robert Spencer at (256) 372-4983 (rds0002@aces.edu).

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome!

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Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Progress Bank - Madison

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Calendar of Events

April 1

HOT Coffee

(Free Networking Organization) Huntsville Chamber of Commerce Auditorium

Contact: Vicki Morris at facetoface. vmorris@gmail.com, 7:45 a.m.

AAMU College of Business and Public Affairs SILENT AUCTION Huntsville Country Club, 6 p.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 9

Huntsville India Association "Festival of Colors" 3300 Holmes Avenue, Huntsville 11:30-2:30 p.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 facetoface. vmorris@gmail.com, 7:45 a.m.

April 17

46th Annual Earth Day Festival and Farmer's Market Monte Sano State Park Picnic Area 12-5 p.m.

April 22

Annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala Alabama A&M University Von Braun Center, 6 p.m.

April 29

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

April 30

Civil War Symposium "Four Bloody Years of War: Policy and Strategy, Sedition and Emancipation" SpringHill Suites by Marriott

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.

May 13

HOT Coffee (Free Networking Organization) Hudson Alpha Campus

Local Cattleman Honored by BCIA

Clanton, Ala. – The Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) named Turner Farms, J. B. Turner, Jr. of Harvest, Ala., as the 2015 Purebred Producer of the Year at the 73rd Annual Alabama Cattleman's Association Convention in Birmingham.

Turner Farms is a diversified family operation, producing cattle, vegetables and high quality hay and is located in Madison County near Harvest.

Turner Farms is owned and operated by J. B. Turner, Jr. and family, and has a firm commitment to producing high quality Angus and SimAngus seedstock and also Hereford/Angus cross females. Genetic selection emphasizes balanced performance genetics along with visual appraisal to produce cattle with longevity and performance.

Genetic selection is an intensive, ongoing process involving analysis of pedigree, production records and the most current genetic evaluation tools. Turner Farms has evaluated the performance of these genetics through



Turner

the Alabama BCIA North Alabama Bull Evaluation for the past 7 years. Top quality commercial replacement heifers from Turner Farms have been a highlight of the North Alabama BCIA Heifer Sale for the past 10 years.

Turner is a steadfast conservationist and has applied many USDA NRCS programs within his operation since the 1980s. His commitment to operating in an environmentally sustainable

manner was recognized with the honor of the 2016 Alabama NRCS Small Farmer of the Year and the national USDA NRCS Lloyd Wright Small Farmer of the Year Awards.

Turner Farms will also be nominated by Alabama BCIA for the national Beef Improvement Federation's 2016 Outstanding Seedstock Producer of the Year Award.

The Alabama BCIA is a nonprofit organization seeking to promote, educate and facilitate the use of performance data, record keeping and marketing opportunities to improve the Alabama cattle industry.

Formed in 1964, BCIA currently cooperates with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System of Auburn University under a formal agreement.

For more information, please contact: Michelle Elmore, Alabama BCIA Extension Animal Scientist, at (205) 646-0115 or e-mail elmormf@auburn.edu.

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rom the Editor

When you read this editorial, it will be the last Friday in March and a couple of days before Easter. Two weeks ago, we had springlike weather and this week we have winter-like temps. It's what my mother used to call the "Easter snap."

We were cautioned about throwing off our jackets and coats too early in the season because we wanted to show off our Easter dresses and spring suits, because the cold weather was surely not

> over. We typically thought of March as Spring, even if the groundhog did not see his shadow on February 2nd.

According to Calendar Updates (http://www.calendar-updates.com/info/ holidays/us/spring.aspx), in the United States and the rest of the northern hemisphere, the first day of the spring season is the day of the year when the Sun crosses the celestial equator moving northward (on March 20th or 21st). As I write this editorial on March 21, it's about 45 degrees outside; so keep your jackets on a bit longer and save yourself the misery of running noses, scratchy throats, headaches, and the nagging coughs that I am struggling with this week. The elevated pollen count has not helped at all.

Even though there we limited resources, we could go over to Bedsoles in Monroeville, one of the local drygood stores and put us some things on layaway for Easter. Either my mother paid for them weekly or monthly as she could or her brother, our Uncle Bill, who had an account there was kind enough to let us use his account from time to time. We took Easter seriously! Although we had big fun coloring eggs for the neighborhood egg hunt, we celebrated the resurrection of Christ.

If you were old enough to walk and talk, you had an Easter speech. Sometimes it was as simply as, "Jesus wept." Our mom kept us focused on that, one of the foundational principles of Christianity. I can't remember all of the

exact specifics of back then, but I do remember that we had banana pudding made from scratch, candied yams and ham. I'm not much for the banana pudding now, but I still like the ham and yams for Easter--yum!

As we end March which is Women's History Month, I would like to give a shout-out to one of Huntsville's most loving women, Mrs. Karen Jones Smith. Today, many children are not interested in being involved in or eventually managing the businesses of the parents. Karen and her husband, David Smith, are successful at running Royal Funeral Home, a 98-year-old business that has been foundational in this community for many years. Royal's history is part of the "soul" of Huntsville. Karen and David are following the steps of her parents, the late Mr. James and Barbara Jones. And, that worth celebrating. Ah ... building on a solid foundation.

Until next week ...





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This Week: Washington at a Glance



Here are your top issues in DC this week:

1. The House is in session this week. The Senate adjourned last Friday for its two-week Spring Recess. The House has a short week and will adjourn on Wednesday through April 12. Among other items, the House will this week to approve a bill to restructure the U.S. merger review process by altering the standards for obtaining a preliminary injunction

against a proposed merger and eliminating the Federal Trade Commission's adjudicative function in certain merger cases.

2. President and Mrs. Obama and their two daughters went on a five-day trip to Cuba and Argentina, which included a state dinner hosted by Cuban President Raul Castro on Monday, a speech at the Great Theater of Havana broadcast island-wide on Tuesday, and a meeting

with the new President of Argentina Mauricio Macri in Buenos Aires. This is the first trip by a sitting U.S. President to Cuba since Calvin Coolidge in 1928.

3. Last Wednesday, the Senate Commerce Committee approved by voice vote a comprehensive FAA reauthorization bill that would improve aircraft certification and reform thirdclass medical requirements, but leaves out the controversial air traffic control privatization measure that has stalled the House bill.

The House this week will approve the final version of an extension of the FAA's current authorization through July 15 and the excise taxes through March 31, 2017. The extension, the second such stop-gap measure, had been widely expected since Congress faces a March 31 deadline to act on FAA authorization.

4. 2016 Presidential Watch. Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, John Kasich and Ted Cruz were in DC to speak at the pro-Israel AIPAC Policy Conference. AIPAC invited all the presidential candidates to speak, but Bernie Sanders declined. On Tuesday, March 22, we'll have the AZ and UT primaries, along with the Idaho **Democratic Caucuses** and a GOP convention in American Samoa. Later in the week on March 26 are

the Democratic caucuses in AK, WA, and HI.

DELEGATE COUNT

- Democratic -

Hillary Clinton 1,614 (need 2,383)

Bernie Sanders 856

- Republican -

Donald Trump 678 (need 1,237)

> Ted Cruz 423

John Kasich 164

5. WRITING RULES FOR ESSA: A committee of educators, parents, civil rights activists, paraprofessionals, tribal leaders, business leaders and others meet today through Wednesday

RELEASE YOUR POTENTIAL.

to start hashing out some of the first regulations to be crafted under the new **Every Student Succeeds** Act. They'll talk assessments and "supplement, not supplant" language, which says federal funding can't replace state and local dollars.

These aren't the biggest issues to tackle - regulating on accountability is shaping up to be the Super Bowl of ESSA implementation - but the negotiations process will offer a window into the consensus and conflicts that may materialize in the coming weeks and months.

6. Wednesday (March 23) was the peak bloom for the 3,800 cherry trees on and around the Tidal Basin. Visit here to see a live cam of the Tidal Basin: http://www. earthcam.com/usa/dc/

Huntsville Site of Nike Basketball Clinic

RCE Skills Academy announces 2016 Basketball Clinic partnerships with Nike and Elite Hoops.

Rocket City Elite Skills Academy, Elite Hoops and Nike Basketball camps have signed a long term agreement to offer a yearround schedule of customized and intense basketball skills development training camps and 3on3 leagues to youth of all ages in Huntsville, North Alabama and Southern Tennessee.

Led by the director of

player development, Ronnie Elliot, these skill staining camps are an excellent way for young boys and girl basketball players to improve their ball handling, perimeter moves, and shooting form.

These sessions are staffed with elite coaches and trainers with assistance from high school coaches, college coaches and former professional players.

"These basketball skills clinics is designed to enhance young players shooting, ball-handling, and team play skills. "We are happy and excited to be partnering with Nike and Elite Hoops to bring their proven basketball training and skills programs to Huntsville. If you have a young athlete on a school team, church team or recreational team, these skills camps are a perfect way to prepare them for the upcoming season" said Coach Elliott.

Rocket City Elite Skills Academy, Elite Hoops and

Nike Basketball Camps will be offering year-round basketball training clinics throughout Huntsville for basketball players 4 years old to the 11 grade. Each training session maintains a 6:1 player coach ratio.

For more information on camps, clinics, private individual or small group training, call Mr. Leon Burnette at (256) 658-1235 or Mr. Elliott at (256) 426-2576, or visit the website at http://www.elitehoopsbasketball.com/huntsville.



www.EliteHoopsBasketball.com
For NIKE Camp info call 1-800-NIKE-CAMP | For Training/Leagues call 470.242.1EHB

HMA to Feature "Folk Couture: Fashion and Folk Art" April 10 - June 26, 2016

Fashion has always found inspiration in unpredictable sources: art, life, history—there are no boundaries. In this spirit, the American Folk Art Museum invited 13 emerging and established designers to creatively respond to its encompassing collections that are so expressive of the human experience in a wide variety of materials and mediums over three centuries.

The Museum's collection offers piercing insights into personal narratives and artistic journeys, cultural trends, and historical moments. Each of the designers was presented with the unique opportunity to be moved by an artwork or group of artworks from the Museum's collection and to translate this emotion into a wearable ensemble. The relationship between inspiration and creation was further enhanced through the installation of the designers' ensembles alongside the artworks that influenced

The unusual collaboration between the fashion designers and the American Folk Art Museum reinforces the undeniable power of each art form as a vital visual expression. The rich variety of objects in the Museum's collection, ranging from portraits, quilts and textiles, and the singular work of contemporary self-taught artists, resulted in creations as diverse, dazzling, and surprising as the artworks that inspired them.

Lead Sponsors: Julie and Bob Broadway; Exhibition Sponsors: The Jurenko Foundation, Olin B. King Foundation, Donny's Diamond Gallery, Inc. – Donny Maleknia and Fatemeh, Carole Anne and Conway Ellers



HONOR: Mrs. Rosetta James and Mr. Gary T. Whitley, Jr., (above) were on hand for the Inaugural Education Banquet of the Julius R. Scruggs Child Development Center anad Academy on Friday, March 18, at First Missionary Baptist Church. Mrs. James, namesake of the Rosetta James Foundation, will have a room in the expanded Academy named in her honor. The guest speaker for the banquet was Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., senior vice president for medicine and dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

Oakwood Prez Heads SDA College Group

On Monday, March 14, 2016, the presidents of the 13 Seventh-day Adventist Colleges and Universities in North America elected Oakwood University's president Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., to serve as President of the Adventist Colleges and Universities (AACU) for the 2016-2018 term.

AACU represents the executive leadership of the colleges and universities in North America. In his fifth year as President of Oakwood University, Pollard is the first President from Oakwood to serve as President of AACU.

In this new role, Dr. Pollard will be responsible for convening and chairing the AACU Presidents' meetings and advancing the agenda of higher education in North America. He will also work closely with



the North American Division Department of Education to promote the aims of Seventhday Adventist education at the elementary, high school, collegiate, and university levels.



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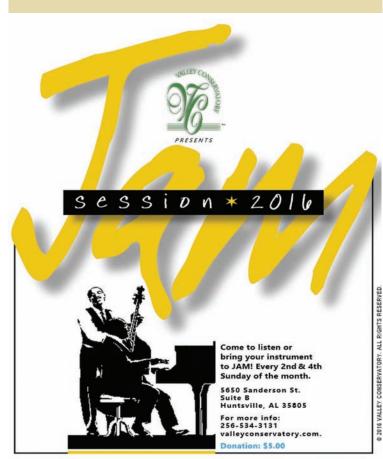
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The Color of Mentorship

Around 1974, a few short years after public school integration had begun to take a stronghold in Tuscaloosa, Ala., my mom, a hardworking domestic, arranged to get me enrolled at the white high school, the one where the black teachers seemed to be sending their kids.

The white high school--at least as many adults in my neighborhood believed--had better resources and even better teachers. The latter was true because colonialism always entails pulling the best from the natives for the benefit of colonizers. Thus, whatever pearls were at the black high schools before integration were placed at predominantly white high schools after integration.

What I have also learned is that, no matter how advantageous the situation a child is relocated to, without mentorship, it will profit him nothing. Most times, I was faced with white teachers who were either prejudiced or indifferent. And, the child of a maid, I was not among the select group that even the black teachers took any interest in--primarily because I was not the offspring of a fellow black teacher.

I was a member of the choir and made an effort to perform with the group at key civic organizations around town. After clearing it with my pastor, I offered my church as a possible venue for this majority

white choral group. It politely fell on deaf ears. I had to admit to myself that my pastor had cautioned me. "I'm sure we are large enough and have everything they need to perform here," he had said. "But I doubt they'll ever come."

One day in 1977, when it was my turn at the wheel, my white driver's ed instructor said to me, "Jerome, do you remember when they used to call your people spooks?"

But it was the less-overt, fifty-fifty things that really got under your skin. For instance, in one English class, the teacher assigned each student a short story and asked for a description. I was assigned a story with an array of tongue twisters, and the teacher pretended she could not understand what I saying.

Looking back over those long ago, mostly bitter years, I see a black kid soundly ignored and unmentored by both white and black teachers. The saving grace was a lone white teacher who recommended that I consider Tuskegee for college. She had once worked there. And, if I recall it correctly, it was the white teachers who actually came through on the letters of recommendation. Thus, we cannot afford to assume that black teachers will nurture our children nor that white teachers will not. Fortunately, mentorship is colorless.

by Jerome Saintjones

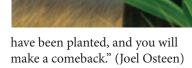
The Ultimate Comeback

Easter, one of the most miraculous weekends in history, represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ when He gave his life for us on Cavalry. In remembrance of our Lord and Savior, it is important that we live each day full of faith and belief in the glory and goodness of God.

A heart filled with faith is the best thing for your body, mind, and soul. When you truly believe that "you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you," you will begin to notice the miracles and blessings present in your life. Walking in purpose requires faith because we can't foresee the future of our effort. All we can do is plant the seed, prepare for the best, and hope to God that it works.

I was listening to Joel Osteen's station one day, and he said something that really stuck with me: "There is a difference between being buried and being planted, that difference boils down to what you expect to happen next.

When you put a seed in the ground, you don't say I'm burying the seed, you say I am planting this seed because by planting it, you expect to see it rise again and come back to life. When you go through difficulties, and tough times, it may feel like you've been buried, but you have the seed of the Almighty God in you; He has breathed His life in you, so you



Just as Jesus rose and made a comeback from the crucifixion, we all have the ability to bounce back from anything thrown our way. I haven't met many people with a smooth sail to success, but the ones who seem to be successful don't give up and prevail over

adversity.

If you experience times where you feel buried in your work, or your business isn't where you would like it to be, we have to remember that we too can resurrect from any situation, and we will rise to the top. Have a Happy Easter!

by Amoi Savage



On This Day - Friday, March 25, 2016 Aretha Franklin - The undisputed "Queen Of Soul," Aretha Franklin is a multi-Grammy-winning singer. She is the first woman inducted into the Rock 'N Roll Hall Of Fame

- BlackInTime.info

STAY INFORMED: Huntsville City Council Meetings

City Council 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. City Council Work Sessions also held in the City Council 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.



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Valley Conservatory Performing Cantata

The Valley Conservatory Lyceum Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Beatrice Renee Collins-Williams, and the Oakwood Adventist Academy Alumni Mass Choir (J. Philip Williams, conductor) will present the oratorio "The Seven Last Words of Christ" at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 25.

The activity will be held at the First Seventhday Adventist Church, 1303Evangel Drive, NW, in Huntsville, Ala.

Written as a sacred cantata by Theodore Dubois, the program will feature mezzo sopranos Dawn Forbes and Korinne Mitchell; sopranos Brandie Sutton and Kristin Woods; tenors Ryan Lang and Eric Samson; and baritone-bass Iames Williams III.

For more information, call (256) 534-3131 or visit valleyconservatory.com.

HIA Prepares for "Festival of Color"

Huntsville India Association invites all members of the public, from fullblooded Indians to those who simply get a kick out of chucking dyed powder at strangers to celebrate "Holi," the festival of color.

Holi announces the passing of winter and arrival of spring and will be celebrated with the same zeal at India House lawns in Huntsville on April 9nd. There will be a small

www.jahnitheartist.com

cultural program, good food, drinks, and of course colors. So bring your friends and family and come celebrate with us.

Tickets are \$5 for adults. Kids under 7 are free. This includes food, drinks, colors, and cultural show/ dance.

The event will be held in Huntsville on Saturday, April 9, at 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at 3300 Holmes

Filing an Accurate Tax Return

The IRS encourages you to file an accurate tax return. Take extra time if you need it. If you make an error on your return, then it will likely take longer for the IRS to process it which could delay your refund. You can avoid many common errors by filing electronically. Here are nine common tax-filing errors to avoid:

- 1. Wrong or Missing Social Security Numbers. Be sure you enter all SSNs on your tax return exactly as they are on the Social Security cards.
- 2. Wrong Names. Be sure you spell the names of everyone on your tax return exactly as they are on their Social Security cards.
- 3. Filing Status Errors. Some people use the wrong filing status, such as Head of Household instead of Single. The Interactive Tax Assistant on IRS.gov can help you

choose the right status. If you e-file, tax software helps vou choose.

- 4. Math Mistakes. Math errors are common. Tax preparation software does the math for e-filers.
- 5. Errors in Figuring Tax Credits or Deductions. Many filers make mistakes figuring their Earned Income Tax Credit, Child and Dependent Care Credit, and the standard deduction. If you're not e-filing, follow the instructions carefully when figuring credits and deductions. For example, if you're age 65 or older or blind, be sure you claim the correct, higher standard deduction.
- 6. Incorrect Bank Account Numbers. Choose direct deposit for your refund. It's easy and convenient. However, be sure to use the right routing and account numbers on your return.

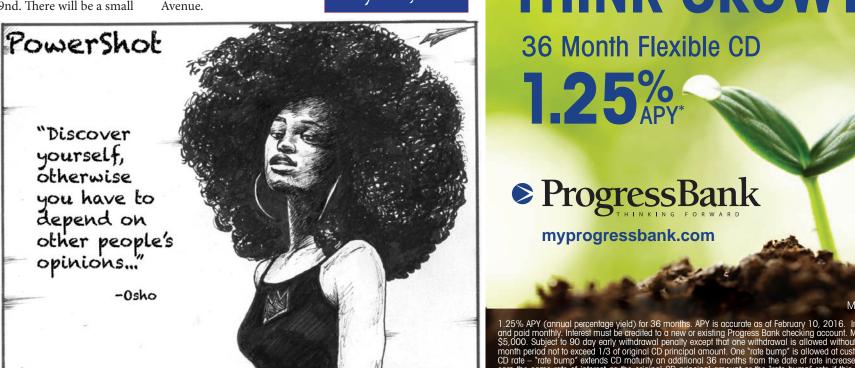
The fastest and safest way to get your tax refund is to combine e-file with direct deposit.

7. Forms Not Signed. An unsigned tax return is like an unsigned check - it's not valid. Both spouses must sign a joint return. You can avoid this error by e-filing your taxes since you must digitally sign your tax return before you send it to the IRS. 8. Electronic Filing PIN Errors. When you e-file, you sign your return electronically with a Personal Identification Number. If you know last year's e-file PIN, you can use that. If you don't know it, enter the Adjusted Gross Income from the 2014 tax return that you originally filed with the IRS. Do not use the AGI amount from an amended return or a return that the IRS corrected. 9. Health Care Reporting

Errors. The most common health care reporting errors that taxpayers make involve failing to claim a coverage exemption and not reconciling advance payments of the premium tax credit. If you don't have qualifying health care coverage but meet certain criteria, you might be eligible to claim an exemption from coverage and avoid an unnecessary payment when you file your tax return. If you enrolled in health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace and received advance credit payments, you must file a tax return to reconcile the advance payments made on your behalf with the amount of your actual premium tax credit.

David E. Herron **DEH & Associates** Consulting, LLC Nashville, Tenn.

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JAHA!





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"I was born a slave, but nature gave me the soul of a free man."

- Toussaint Louverture



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