

Simplifying Crypto in the Motherland, p. 8

FREE



Managing Lawns & Egos, p. 5

Friday
March 25, 2022
Vol. 8, No. 29
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Laura B. Clift

"Choose your leaders with wisdom and forethought ..." - Octavia Butler



Car Show Scheduled at A&M This Weekend

In an innovative push to garner additional support for student athletes at Alabama A&M University, the 1st Annual "Cruising at Crews" Car Show has been scheduled for Saturday, March 26, at Louis Crews Stadium and the vicinity of the Elmore Gymnasium. Registration will begin at 9 a.m.

Judging will take place at 12 noon and awards presented at 3 p.m. for the categories of Best of Show, Best Paint, Largest Club and Furthest Distance (car/truck/bike, etc.). Judged entry fees are \$25 per vehicle and \$20 per bike. There is a show-only fee of \$10.

Food trucks will be on site, and entertainment by a special guest DJ. For more information, contact Charles Breedlove at (256) 426-8017; Dwayne Taylor at (256) 541-4548; or Taurus Smith at (256) 907-1113.

Spelling Bee Set

The Buena Vista Kelly Spelling Bee will be held virtually on Sunday, April 24, at 3 p.m. Open to 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders. Entry deadline is April 20. For more info, contact Angela Swain, Daughters of R.E. Nelms Temple #1127, at (256) 655-8082 or e-mail renelms@gmail.com.

ACCS Opens Center

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

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

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

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

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

For more information on upcoming trainings or for answers to frequently asked questions, visit innovation.accs.edu.

Daughters of Elk Presenting Poetry Contest

The Daughters of R.E. Nelms Temple #1127 proudly presents the Black Girl Magic Poetry Contest, which will be held virtually, on Sunday, March 27, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

This event will be the first of many events to inspire and showcase the talents of youth residing in greater Huntsville and Madison County.

The Poetry Contest is open to 5th grade female students and will be hosted on a virtual platform. The first place winner of this contest will have an opportunity to read their winning poem on the SunDial Writers Corner – which is a program featuring local poets and is broadcast on WLRH FM, 89.3 in Huntsville, Ala.

The guest speaker for the event will be Dr. Ramona Hyman, profes-

sor of English at Oakwood University, renown author,

feature the Alabama A&M University Poetry Club.

Members will recite some of their poetic expressions.

The deadline for contest entry is March 24, 2022. All submissions for entry must be e-mailed to renelms1127@gmail.com by 10 p.m. CST.

For more information, please contact Daughter Angela Swain: 256-655-8082, or email:

renelms1127@gmail.com.

and poet.

The program will also



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Washington in One Minute



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

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The Senate is in session this week and the House is out. House Republicans convened in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, on Wednesday for a three-day retreat. The Senate started the week with a cloture vote Monday at 5:30 p.m. on the House version of the America COMPETES Act (H.R. 4521), which seeks to increase U.S. production of semiconductor chips, strengthen the supply chain to make more goods in America, and invest in scientific research and new technologies. The legisla-

tion includes an amendment from Reps. Andy Levin (D-MI) and Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH) that would create short-term Pell Grants for qualified programs and also folds in the College Transparency Act, which would create a new unit record reporting system for postsecondary data. The bill includes some immigration provisions that would be helpful for international students and scholars, including an exemption from the current green card caps for Ph.D. holders with STEM degrees from U.S. or foreign institutions, including health professions and related fields.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.**

On Wednesday, President Biden traveled to Belgium, where he attended an emergency NATO meeting on Thursday and participated in the European Council Summit on Thursday and Friday. From there, he traveled to Poland to meet with Ukrainian refugees.

3. **JUDGE JACKSON HEARINGS.** On Monday at 11 a.m., the Senate Judiciary Committee began four (4) days of hearings on the Supreme Court nomination of U.S. Appeals Court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

4. **SUPREME COURT.** The court has a busy week of oral arguments and issuing decisions, starting off the week with a case pertaining to North Carolina's voter identification law in *Berger v. North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP*. On Sunday evening, the court announced that 73-year-old Justice Clarence Thomas had been

admitted to a hospital in Washington, D.C. on Friday for flu-like symptoms and would remain in the hospital for the next 1-2 days, where he is receiving intravenous antibiotics to treat an infection.

5. **ADMINISTRATION MEETINGS AT NLC.** Hamm Consulting Group enjoyed the opportunity to meet with representatives from the White House, HUD, and EPA during last week's National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington.

These meetings provided clients the opportunity to discuss their local priorities of housing, equitable community revitalization, transportation, water infrastructure, and resiliency and to learn about relevant federal investments and resources.

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Website: Huntsville Will Become Too Expensive to Live in Eight Years

GoBankingRates.com conducted a recent study to find out which major U.S. cities are on track to lose their affordability, using median home value and projected growth over a decade based on 2022-23 one-year forecast. Although admitting a few caveats, the website maintained that "projecting into the future based on a single year's growth rate could ultimately paint an unfair picture in



markets where the current rate is an anomaly."

According to the report, studying areas that are "outpacing the national average for growth" can provide insight into those cities where people should buy a home sooner rather than later.


"If you end up living in

one of these cities 10 years down the line, you might want to check out other, more affordable real estate markets instead," noted the website.

According to the site's projections, Huntsville will become too expensive to live in 2030, and the projected home value exceeds \$1.19 million, just topping a U.S. median projected home value of \$1.16 million by more than \$23,188.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Funeral service for ELDER WILLIE LEE PAYNE (b. 1937) was held Monday, March 21, at Eagles Nest Ministries Church.

Funeral service for MR. TIMOTHY E. MCCAULLEY (b. 1965) was held Saturday, March 19, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MRS. MILLIE TOWNSEND FORD (b. 1935) was held Sunday, March 13, at Saint Mark Baptist Church (6475 Moores Mill Road ~ Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Jeremiah Chester officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Graveside service for MR. MICHAEL ALLEN WALLACE (b. 1955) will be 12:30 p.m., Friday, March 25, in the Alabama National Cemetery (3133 Hwy 119, Montevallo, Ala.) with Mr. Cedric Wallace as the eulogist and Minister Dwight Tiggs officiating.

Funeral service for DEACON FRANK LANGFORD, SR., was held Sunday, March 20, at Big Shiloh P.B. Church (133 Maple St., Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Jeffery Jefferson officiating.

Funeral service for DR. JAMES HENRY HICKS (b. 1932) was held Saturday, March 19, at Fellowship Presbyterian Church (3406 Meridian Street, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Gregory Bentley officiating.

Funeral service for MOTHER OLEANA BERRY DRAPER (b. 1941) was held Saturday, March 19, at the Right Way Church of God in Christ (5307 Mastin Lake Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Superintendent Herbert Freeman, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JOHNATHAN DAVID BAILEY (b. 1964) was held Saturday, March 19, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MOTHER PATRICIA ANN "BOBBIE" LEMONS (b. 1948) was held Friday, March 18, at the Eagles Nest Ministries, Inc. (6831 Hollow Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Leroy Caudle officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for MR. TOMMY JEFF WILLIAMS, SR., (b. 1970) was held Saturday, March 19, at Sherwood Baptist Church, 6600 Old Madison Pike, Huntsville, Ala.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

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

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April 29

Investiture for Daniel K. Wims

12th President of Alabama

A&M University

T.M. Elmore Building

10 a.m.

Alabama A&M University

Black-Tie Scholarship Gala

Von Braun Center North Hall

(256) 372-8344

April 30

Katt Williams

Propst Arena

Von Braun Center

Huntsville, Ala.

8 p.m.

May 6

Spring Commencement

Alabama A&M University

May 22

The Temptations & The Four Tops

Mark C. Smith Concert Hall

Von Braun Center

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

"DOING THE RIGHT THING"

Ephesians 6: 12 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

As long as we are Christians, there will always be a battle for our minds. Now this battle that I am talking about is the struggle between good and evil. It is the struggle between doing what is right and doing what is wrong. Now both God and the devil want to control our minds. And the prize "at stake" is our salvation. You see, the

devil knows that if he can capture your thoughts, then he can corrupt your mind. He also knows that a corrupt mind will lead to destruction. Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."

Today, we live in a world that has gone wild when it comes to the things that we listen to and watch. And, it causes "images" to stay in our minds that can potentially be dangerous. That's why we as Christians need to set our minds on things above and not on earthly things (Col.3:2). It goes on to say in vs 5: "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed which is idolatry."

We can change the way we live by changing the way we think . But we have to realize that our strength is in our relationship with God. In

other words, the more we know the word of God, the more weapons we will have to battle against the enemy.

Since this is a spiritual battle and we live in the flesh, Jesus is the only one that can help us win the war that's going on in our minds. When Jesus died on the cross, we no longer had to fight our battles in our own strength. In Luke 10:19-20, Jesus says that we have the power to demolish any strongholds that are in our lives. One of the strongholds that we have to deal with is doing the right thing when no one is watching ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, "A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE," at amazon.com.





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AAMU Advisor Will Present at Regional Conference

The National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) has selected Dr. Selicia Hughes Kidd as a presenter for its 2022 Region 4 Conference in Atlanta, Ga., this April.

Kidd's submission—"Let's Meet at the Middle (School): Be the Next Black College Grad to Rock!"—will address African-American students' lack of preparation in post-secondary general education as compared to their white and Asian counterparts.

During her discussion,

Dr. Kidd will share best practices to lessen the gap to support the educational and career preparation of African-American students beginning as early as their middle school years.

Dr. Kidd earned the Ed.D. in educational leadership and professional practice from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tenn.

She is the Freshman Academy academic advisor for AAMU's College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences; first-



year experience instructor; and mechanical engineering learning community advisor.

Amphitheatre Opening Set

In proud connection with the Grand Opening weekend of the Orion Amphitheater, Impresario Productions, partnering with Alabama A&M University's WJAB-FM 90.9, is producing "Soulful Sunday," scheduled for Sunday, May 15, a day replete with Huntsville's very own talent.

Soulful Sunday concludes an exciting three-day opening weekend for Huntsville's newest live

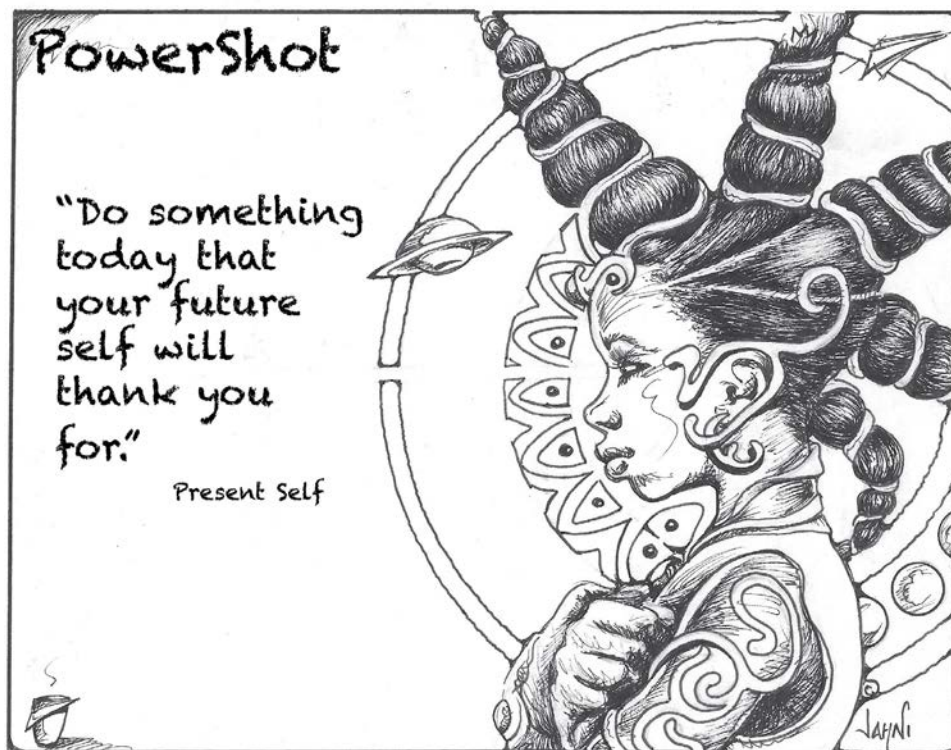


entertainment destination. Hosted by Melody Shari

and Dante Pride, diverse and inclusive acts will feature Translee, Kelvin Wooten, The Aeolians of Oakwood University, Element XI, The Neighbors and the Huntsville Drumline.

For additional information, please contact Angela or Rick Bradshaw at impresario.production@gmail.com or (615) 456-1116, or visit the website: theorionhuntsville.com.

- Jerome Saintjones



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JAZZ IN THE GARDEN **APRIL 15**

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"We can never be gods, after all--but we can become something that is less than human with frightening ease."

— N. K. Jemisin



Springtime: managing lawns, weeds - and egos?

"Can a leopard change its spots, or an Ethiopian his skin?"
- Jeremiah 13:23

On Our Lawns, . . .

Outside our home's kitchen windows are two "Hi, We're Back!" signs: green and white budding tree branch tips and purple flower-like weeds.

Spring has sprung - and with it, my constant reminder of needing God's management of things that grow naturally - like egos.

Lawn upkeep is not simply an early March one-and-done activity; instead, the best lawncare management requires constant (often weekly) mowing, pruning, trimming, edging, and disposing of excesses deemed unnecessary. The lawn will not manage itself.

In February, I even applied weed-killing spray to stop that purple surge. While it's working currently, months from now, however, those purple wanna-be flowers will re-surface and therefore need re-management. They, too, will not manage themselves.

My grass and hedges will neither cut nor trim themselves; nor will my weeds cure, solve and eliminate themselves. As our lawn's steward, I can and must only manage these natural growths with consistent watch care . . .

. . . Just like God helps us manage our ego-holism - our addiction to self. States Ryan Holiday, author of *Ego Is The Enemy*: "Your ego is not some power you're forced to satiate at every turn. It can be managed. It can be directed."

. . . And In Our Lives

Q: Are you like me struggling unsuccessfully with such ego-holisms as procrastination, selfishness, arrogance, poor eye contact, blame-gaming (excuse-making), dis-organization, and even more selfishness?

The Bad News? You and I are stuck forever with those "character potholes." They are embedded in our lives' hard-drives. And try though you and I might, those and other ego problems cannot be cured, solved or eliminates, but . . .

The Good News? Just like the even lengths of your lawn grass; the sculpted shape of your hedges; and the presence of those weeds, our lives' "character weeds" (e.g., lust, pornography, conceit, low-/no esteem, etc.) can only be managed through an ongoing management partnership with God.

Just like your and my lawns and weeds cannot cut, trim or eliminate themselves but need our regular management maintenance, our character weeds cannot solve, cure and eliminate themselves, but also need our God-us management.

Ego-holism is "the addiction to self" - displayed either as arrogance, boastfulness or pride (big egos), and/or low-/no esteem, insecurity, or feelings of inadequacies (little egos); ego-holisms (both big and little egos) equally affect and drain every person, organization, event or activity. God is gifting me to expose my own ego-holism(s) and to share my ongoing recovering journey, by overlapping Biblical best-practices with current events/news-makers that illustrate characteristics of this addiction.

tim allston is the author of the free and downloadable book, 7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else."



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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov

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A New Generation Of Service

MARCH 25 - ARETHA FRANKLIN - She found acclaim and commercial success after signing with Atlantic Records in 1966. Hit songs such as "Respect", "Chain of Fools", "Think", "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman", "I Never Loved a Man (The Way I Love You)", and "I Say a Little Prayer", propelled her past her musical peers. By the end of the 1960s, Aretha Franklin had come to be known as "The Queen of Soul". - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



"The problem with knowing is that it takes away the possibility of pretending."

- Pearl Cleage

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

2 CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

While It is Still Day ...



... *For the Night Cometh*

These words were spoken by Jesus in the context of a question raised by His disciples concerning the reason or cause behind the condition of a man who had been born blind.

They wanted to know if the man's parents had sinned or if, somehow, he had some prenatal predilection for evil activity that was done while in his

mother's womb.

Jesus simply said, neither.

He said that that was an opportunity for the power of God to be displayed. He then stated that there is a stewardship of time that is a must when it comes to doing what Jesus called, the works of Him who sent Him.

Using the analogy of day and night, Jesus made it clear that these works, these opportunities, must be seized upon during the day.

This was not a literal day; it was an analogy for that season in one's life when they are able to do it. Night represents that season in life when one is no longer able.

Whether the night



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comes in the form of age, accidents, or attrition of some other kind, the fact still remains that night cometh and that the opportunities for the power of

God to be seen are of such that they must not only be seen and sought out, but weighed and worked on; with the expectation that our obedience puts us

in the position and possession of God's power to indeed work while it is day.

This Sunday's Lectionary



(Track 2 - Year C)

Sunday, March 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



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

Mrs. Laura B. Clift

Mrs. Laura B. Ford Clift is the eldest of five children born to the union of the late Charlie Ed Ford and the late Ida B. Braggs. Born in Huntsville, Alabama, "Laura B," as she is so affectionately known by her family, was educated at West Huntsville Junior High School during her formative years in grades one through eight. Afterwards, she attended Councill Training High School, Normal, Alabama, and graduated from William Hooper Council High School in Huntsville. It was at William Hooper Councill High School that she met Gene Arnold Clift. Both graduated the same year and later enrolled at Alabama A&M College (now AAMU), and then married on July 16, 1958. Clift received the B.S. degree in biology and a minor in mathematics in spring 1964. She later pursued and completed requirements for the M.S. degree in guidance and counseling and psychology, as well as K-12 certification in administration from AAMU.

Clift began her profession as a fourth-grade teacher at Councill Training School (1964-66). She later transferred to a different position in the Madison County School System at Farmer's Capital Junior High in Meridianville, Alabama, where she taught science and math for 11 years. In 1975, Mrs. Clift transitioned to the Huntsville City School System and accepted

her first assignment as guidance counselor at Davis Hills Middle School in Huntsville, Alabama. Here, she became the first African-American female counselor at this location following desegregation. After 15 years, she became the first African-American guidance counselor at Huntsville High School. Clift later accepted a position as first female assistant principal at Ed White Middle School. She remained in that position until her retirement in 2004.

Never being one to sit idly by, "retirement" did not "sit" well with her. After a year of leaving her career in academia, Clift began to devote her afternoons to tutoring students at the Bo Matthews Center for Excellence in Huntsville, Alabama. After four years of service there, she spent five years tutoring middle school students at the Northwest Community Learning Center.

More than 50 years ago, Clift began her pilgrimage with the Lakeside United Methodist Church, following her marriage to her late husband Gene, who was also a native son of Lakeside. Her journey began as a sanctuary member, a soprano soloist

who continues to lend her voice to the church's sanctuary choir. She has served as a church historian and certified lay servant/lay speaker of the United Methodist Church, president of the local Mary Binford Jordan group of United Methodist Women

Organization at Lakeside, member of the finance committee and chair of the Council on Ministries.

She has also taken on the task of being the benevolence liaison for her neighborhood Slaughter's subdivision,

and the primary collection agent for the March of Dimes, American Heart Association, etc. Paramount has been her tenure as President of the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter from 2001-03. A perfect role model, she is honored to be the first of three generation of Delta women.

Mrs. Clift is immensely committed to her family. Her daughter Sheila Carol is also an Alabama A&M University alumna, and is married to Dale William Baxter. They have made her the very proud grandmother of two precious gems, Meaghan Dominique and Raven Shedale Baxter.



"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@valley-weeklyllc.com.



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NAAACC Meetings

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.

A&M Graduate, Nigerian-American Attracts Investors for Project to Ease Money Transactions in Africa

Just one year ago, we were following Nigerian-American Alabama A&M University alumnus Oyediji “Deji” Oluwoye on his exciting trip to Australia to gain extra credentials in booming arena of financial technology to help boost his own Atlanta-based company. The aim then, as it remains, was to help bring the African continent “into its destiny” as the next global frontier of innovation.

“Deji” is founder and CEO of Coincentrix, a blockchain research firm that creates software for blockchain and social-impact projects aimed at emerging markets, smart cities and developing countries. A key project of Oluwoye’s operation is Canza, a blockchain-powered ecosystem enabling access to financial tools for sub-Saharan African small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Deji’s Canza Finance, an emerging markets neobank poised to launch a large non-institutional-based financial system, recently announced the completion of its \$3.27 million seed round. The fundraising round was led by Fenbushi Capital, with participation from Dominance Ventures, Bixin Ventures, ConsenSys Mesh, Protocol Labs, Emurgo Ventures, MEXC Global, NGC Ventures, XanPool, HashKey, the founders of Celo and others. This funding enables Canza to continue headcount growth and expand its service offering in Nigeria and other growth regions including South America and Asia.

“We are members of the African diaspora who regularly send money to our family members at home, visit and conduct transactions across various African markets,”

explained Deji just last year. “Our team has first-hand experience dealing with the frustrations that come with unstable currency and limited options for seamlessly transacting across borders. This is what powered our interest in creating a platform that would simplify how businesses across the continent can serve customers on the ground and in the diaspora.”

“Today, we stand at a critical juncture in the journey to democratizing finance, with Nigeria emerging at the vanguard of crypto adoption globally,” commented

AAMU’s own Deji. “Against a backdrop of high inflation, financial instability and barriers to access of traditional financial services, sub-Saharan Africa’s underdeveloped financial infrastructure has made the region a perfect vector for decentralized finance.”

Deji is pushing for leadership in decentralized finance and hopes to spearhead a movement

toward financial freedom for millions of individuals. “The tremendous interest and backing of our investors and strategic partners will enable us to grow the world class Canza

team, improve our security and most importantly take a definitive leadership position in our target markets,” said Deji.”

Established in 2020, Canza relies on a robust network of experienced local money market players to distribute financial and transaction-based services to users in Sub-Saharan African countries. Canza’s seamless crypto on/off-ramp services enable a wide range of DeFi services, including staking, P2P and cross border settlements—aiming to contribute to the creation of an innovative and fully decentralized financial system.

“The rate of cryptocurrency adoption in high-growth markets—in particular Africa—not only signals growing excitement for this new digital economy, but the advance of real world use cases,” said Bo Shen, managing partner

at Fenbushi Capital. “This traction, combined with Sub-Saharan Africa’s market, social and community conditions, uniquely positions it as an environment where a project like Canza will thrive.”

Canza’s collaboration with a large network of mobile money agents will lower the entry barrier for non-literates, the unbanked, and the underbanked, to access major financial services while maintaining the security and transparency associated with decentralization.

“We are in the business of simplifying the blockchain and cryptocurrency access for the African-focused NextGen data driven market,” Deji said.

For more on Deji’s fintech feats, contact o.oluwoye@canza.io or call (256) 694-3432.

- Compiled by Jerome Saintjones



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