

A&M Prepares for Wims Investiture - p. 8

FREE



Go Outside In the Rain, p. 6

The Valley Weekly

Friday
April 1, 2022
Vol. 8, No. 30
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



LTG (Ret) James M. Link

"It isn't where you came from; it's where you are going that counts." - Ella Fitzgerald

Rosetta James Foundation Awards Scholarships to Forty



Members of the Rosetta James Foundation presented scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 or more to nearly 40 recipients on Saturday, March 26, at the Bryant Bank building in downtown Huntsville.

Named in honor of a local, long-time activist, volunteer and civil rights advocate, the Foundation recognizes individuals 70 years of age and over who have given consistently, unselfishly and untiringly of themselves in service to mankind, worthwhile causes and institutions.

The Foundation also honors college students who have a substantial record of volunteering.

Among the 2022 recipients (alphabetically, with schools, sponsors in caps): **Ashlyan Baker** (Howard); **Alysse Banks** (Drake State)-H.C. BLAKE; **Macie D. Battle** (AAMU)-VANESSA WILLIAMS MCCARTHY; **Lauren**

Campbell (Clemens HS); **Nicolas Carter** (AAMU); **Aaliyah Caston** (Lee HS)-JESH-ENRY F. MALONE; **Mercy Cook** (UAH); **Dominique A. Davis** (Tennessee State); **Jamiyah Dozier** (Sparkman HS); **Alivia R. Eggleston** (Clemens HS)-DAMSON; **Nevaeh Eggleston** (Kentucky); **Natalie Fields** (Mississippi State)-REP. ANTHONY DANIELS; **Nicholas Fields** (Lee HS)-CHARLES CANNON; **Kory E. Fleming** (Morehouse)-MOREHOUSE FUND; **Devon Friend** (Lee HS)-CAREY LINK MEMORIAL; **Makenzie Friend** (Mercer)-NELMS; **Kurantiya Garner** (Wallace State)-PARKER GRIFFITH; **Madisyn K. Graves** (Lee HS)-PARKER GRIFFITH; **Allison Harbour** (Auburn); **Narcissus E. Hardin** (Auburn)-VANVALKENBURGH & WILKINSON; **Jonathan Henderson** (Hazel Green HS); **Katrina Jarvis** (Drake State)-

NORMA POWERS; **Martha Johnson** (Drake State)-KENTH ELLINGTON SMOOT; **Jhori Lester** (AAMU)-DR. ANNIE GRACE ROBINSON; **Ederick Mangruem** (Drake State)-NORMA POWERS; **Mariah G. Mathis** (Alabama)-PARKER GRIFFITH; **Amiya Moore** (Buckhorn HS); **Dominique Morris** (Alabama State)-MERRIWEATHER-VICKERS MEMORIAL; **Jalen D. Morrison** (AAMU)-TMT GROUP; **Lilian Msoma** (Drake State)-PUGH-SLATER; **Amber Noffke** (Drake State)-BURRUSS-EDWARDS; **Ashley Robinson** (AAMU)-DR. HARRIETT S.LITTLEPAGE; **Willa Roby** (Alabama); **Robinson Scruggs** (Madison Academy); **Maya Taylor** (Tennessee State); **Nia Timmons** (Tennessee State)-REP. LAURA HALL; and **Kiah O. Warner** (Jackson State)-MCMILLIAN MEMORIAL.

Choral Matriarch Nears 100

The Nell Lane Bradford Legacy Choir will celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford on April 23, at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church at 1 p.m.

Mrs. Bradford, retired choral director, and her late husband, Dr. Henry Brad-

ford, Jr., who chaired the Music Department, created a music dynasty during their more than 40-year span at Alabama A&M University.

Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church is located at



228 Church Street in downtown Huntsville. COVID protocols will be followed.

For additional information, contact Dr. Anthony B. Stinson, director, at (404) 519-8881.

Impresario, WJAB Partner for 'Soulful Sunday'

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, Ele-



ment XI, The Neighbors and the Huntsville Drumline.

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

The Valley Weekly

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Washington in One Minute



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

1. ON THE FLOOR. The House and Senate are in session this week. Among other items, the House will take up a bill to remove marijuana from the list of federally controlled substances and impose a federal tax on sales. The Senate will start the week with final votes on 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 (thereby allowing the bill to proceed to a conference with the House).

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. President Biden returned to the White House from his 4-day trip to Belgium and Poland on Sunday morning. On Monday, the President sent his Fiscal Year 2023 budget to Congress (which will be listed online here once the documents are released: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/>), which according to The Hill newspaper will include a 20% wealth tax on U.S. taxpayers worth more than \$100 million levied on their income as well

as unrealized gains in the value of their liquid assets, such as stocks and bonds. On Tuesday, he met with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the White House (in place of a canceled 2-day summit with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations that was set to take place on Monday and Tuesday at the White House). Last Thursday, while in Europe meeting with NATO leaders, the President announced \$1 billion in humanitarian aid for Ukrainian refugees and pledged that the U.S. would take in up to 100,000 refugees.

On the COVID-19 front, the President is asking Congress to approve \$22.5 billion in additional FY2022 COVID-19 assistance before the start of the Easter Recess on April 8, but Republicans are opposing it unless it is fully paid for by cuts to other programs or the use of unspent funds.

3. EARMARKS. The House and Senate are once again accepting proposals for earmarks, called “Community Project Funding” in the House and “Congressionally Directed Spending” in the Senate. The House has released new guidance for FY 2023 that is similar to what was provided to members last year, but it will

accept 15 requests, up from 10 requests in FY 2022. The Appropriations Committee will begin taking requests from House members on April 4th through the end of the month. The Senate has not yet issued guidance for FY 2023, but Senate offices have begun accepting earmark

requests based on last year’s guidance.

4. SUPREME COURT. Last Wednesday, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out a ruling by the Wisconsin Supreme Court that adopted a redistricting plan submitted by Gov. Tony Evers (D) for seats in the state’s legislature. The state court’s plan would have increased the number of majority-Black districts in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 6 to 7, but the Supreme Court, in an unsigned decision, sided with the Republican-led legislature and ruled that the state court was mistaken in its use of race to select a voting map.

At the same time, the justices turned down a separate request from Wisconsin Republicans related to the state’s voting map for congressional districts and, in a one-sentence order, the justices declined to toss out a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling that adopted the governor’s map for those districts, which will likely maintain the GOP’s 5-3 congressional advantage. On Friday, the court turned aside a lawsuit by 26 Navy SEALs who sought to challenge the Administration’s COVID-19 vaccine requirement for servicemembers.

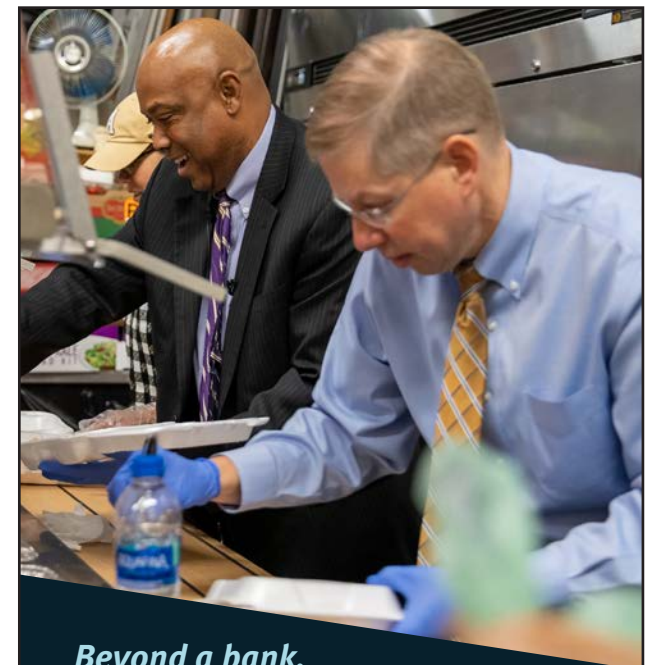
5. MARCH JOBS REPORT. On Friday (April 1) at 8:30

a.m., the Department of Labor will release its monthly jobs report for March, which according to Bloomberg economist estimates is likely to rise by 490,000 jobs. Last week, U.S. jobless claims notched their lowest level since September 1969 at 187,000 filings. The U.S. economy added 687,000 jobs in February.

6. EASTER EGG ROLL. After a 2-year pandemic hiatus, the White House Easter Egg Roll will return on Monday, April 18. To get tickets, you can par-

ticipate in an on-line lottery through March 31 here: <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/facility/250029>. Tours of the White House will resume on April 15.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY
VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME
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Funeral service for MRS. MAMIE JEAN HUGHES (b. 1942) was held Friday, March 25, at Little Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Jerry Crutcher officiating.

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

Funeral service for MRS. MELINDA PINCHON (b. 1937) was held Sunday, March 20, at the Consolidated Flint River and Running Water Primitive Baptist Memorial Tabernacle (2131 Highway 72E - Huntsville, Ala.).

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MS. ROSALYN ELIZABETH THOMPSON MASSIE (b. 1945) will be 1 p.m., Saturday, April 2, at the First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road NW Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. PATRICIA HOUSE PETERSON (b. 1948) was held Sunday, March 27, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Funeral service for MR. FRANKLIN DELANO CHISOM (b. 1959) was held Saturday, March 26, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Elder Dennis Green officiating.

Funeral service for MS. PHYLLIS ANN YARBROUGH (b. 1940) was held Saturday, March 26, at the Bridgeforth House (716 Brownsferry Road, Athens, Ala.).

Graveside service for MR. MICHAEL ALLEN WALLACE (b. 1955) was held 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 SISTER FANNIE MAE KELLEY (b. 1934) was held Thursday, March 24, at Fletcher's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church (30592 Hardiman Road, Madison, Ala.) with Minister Cynthia McCrary as the eulogist and Pastor Kenneth Lankford officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MS. BERTHA PRICE (b. 1952) will be announced at a later date.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
VALLEY EVENTS
HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

April 7
Honors Convocation
Alabama A&M University

April 8-10
Marlon Wayans
Stand Up Live Huntsville
2012 Memorial Parkway
SW
Huntsville, Ala.
(256) 261-3374

April 22-23
Tony Rock
Marlon Wayans
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.

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

"Peppa Pig Live"
Mark C. Smith Concert
Hall
6 p.m.

May 22
The Temptations & The
Four Tops

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
CHAMPION GAME PLAN
PRESTON BROWN

"REAL NEEDS"

Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."

You know, when God speaks of meeting needs, it is not about material needs, or the need to be prosperous. I believe that when God meets our needs, it is designed to direct us toward his good and perfect will for our lives. I also believe that God will meet our needs with a need. In other words, when I felt the need to be comforted, God met that need by providing me

with someone that needed comforting. When I felt the need for prayer, God met that need by providing me with someone that I needed to pray for. And when I was standing in the need of a blessing, God met that need by providing me with someone that I could be a blessing to.

You see, God is in the business of meeting needs with needs. Everything that He does is designed to meet our needs. But so often we have the wrong expectations for having our needs met. And, perhaps it's because our motivation is all wrong. For example, when we expect our needs to be supplied by "worldly" resources, we will always come up short,



and it will rob you of your joy. But I heard someone say that "when our joy is low, entitlement is high". And it comes from not thanking God for what we already have.

You see, God knows our "real needs," and they come from a heart that wants to please God. They don't come from the desires of this world. So, once we get our hearts right, that will affect our motivation for whatever needs that we want God to supply ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

Also, make sure you purchase my book, "A Champion Game Plan For Life," at amazon.com

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STEAMposium, A Passport to the Future

Students are encouraged to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math/Medicine, or STEAM.

The 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville Inc., in partnership with the Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, National Society of Black Engineers Professionals North Alabama Chapter, and National Coalition of 100 Black Women (Huntsville) are hosting the 2022 STEAMposium on April

9 at Calhoun Community College, Huntsville.

The theme this year is “STEAMposium, A Passport to the Future.” The event will serve as a platform to educate and expose participants to the various opportunities within the STEAM career fields.

Exciting programs are planned for teens (junior high and high school students) and their parents.

Sponsorship would assist in funding STEAM-related activities and programming

needs.

For more information, call Gregory Lunn (703) 638-5169 or Bettina Moore (770) 861-4112, or e-mail secretary@100bmogh.com or LinksSTEAMposium@gmail.com.

Parents can register their teen at the following Registration Link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFQbb3khHVhdP7XjYB2gs01B7mxeARNx6O5m81BLQpDI_7KA/viewform]

Arts Huntsville Announces Panoply 2022

Arts Huntsville invites the community to return to downtown Huntsville’s Big Spring Park on April 29, 30, and May 1 to celebrate 40 years of Panoply Arts Festival.

Over four decades, Panoply Arts Festival has evolved into a premiere arts weekend showcasing Huntsville’s innovative spark through a three-day celebration of art, music and more. On Thursday, March 24, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle joined local artists and musicians and Arts Huntsville board, volunteers and staff at the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau to announce details about the 2022 festival, presented by Mazda Toyota Manufacturing.

Panoply’s 40th celebration kicks off at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 29, showcasing many local and regional musical acts, including regionally-celebrated and critically-acclaimed bands and musicians, the juried Art Marketplace, STEAM Street, art and STEAM interactives, community art projects, craft beer and wine, festival food, select local food trucks and more. This year the festival will feature a new layout spanning across Church Street and into Big Spring Park East.

Featured Music: Arts Huntsville welcomes over 30 musical performances in a

variety of genres – jazz, rock, R&B, indie rock, blues, pop and more – to Panoply’s two stages: the Showcase Stage, presented by Pepsi, and the Indie Stage.

Panoply’s Indie Stage will be featured in a new location in Big Spring Park East and will showcase local solo and duo music performances throughout the weekend by favorites such as Delaney Faulds, Shelly Williams, Josh Allison, Jerome Villarreal, Charles and Tanya, Jimmy Henderson, Remy Neal and Cheryl Llewellyn to name just a few – full schedule available at www.artshuntsville.org.

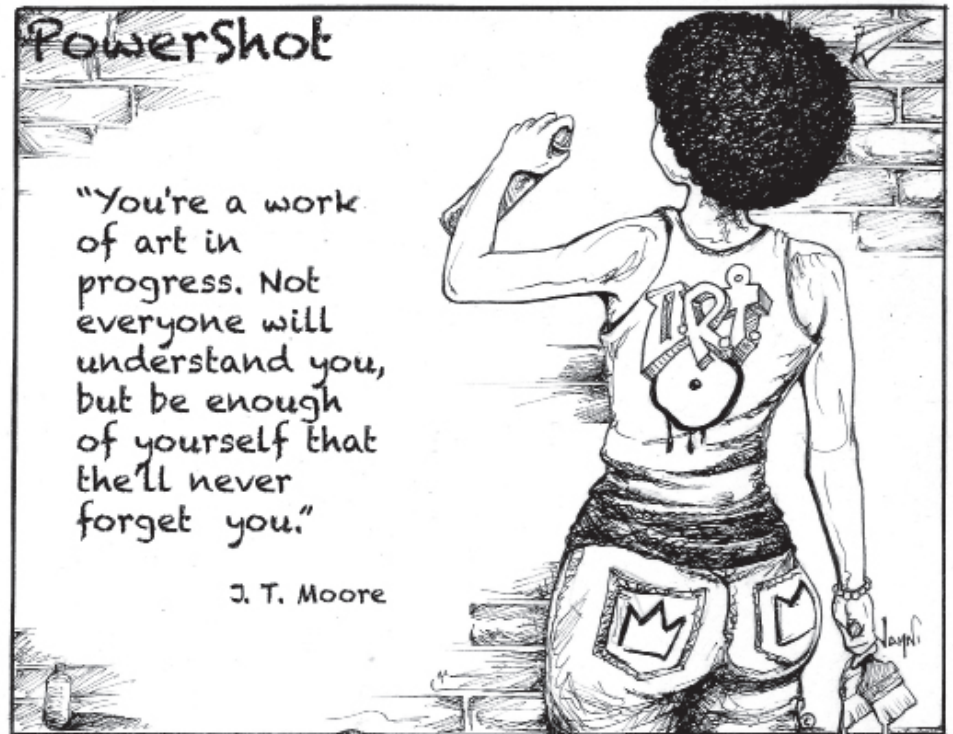
The Pepsi Showcase Stage, located on the back of the Huntsville Museum of Art, will feature multiple bands and shows during the three-day festival. Friday night is host to a rock-packed evening starting with blues-influenced rock band Tres Locos, followed by indie rock band Jayne & the Huntsmen opening for headliner, Hero the Band, whose performance is presented by Pearl Behavioral Health Services. Hero the Band is a multifaceted group from Decatur, Georgia comprised of four brothers with a unique musical vision that blurs lines and genres. Rolling Stone says that Hero the Band’s recent EP “Unicorn” is “the absolute top of its game” and “Hero the Band is ready

to explode.” Arts Huntsville Events Manager Cat Turner added, “These guys are super high energy and will put on a wonderful performance to kick-off the festival.”

On Saturday, the music starts when the gates open at 10 a.m. The festival welcomes Rule of Thirds, Knightshade, Shane Davis, Grove Yard and Will River throughout the day. That evening, the stage will be filled with big sound and big horns as festival attendees can enjoy local powerhouse opening act Element XI and then catch Saturday’s headliners ‘The Suffers.’ The Suffers’ eight-piece band, hailing from Houston, Texas, has played sold out shows in Japan and Latin America. NPR’s Bob Boilen attributes the band’s allure to their “Soul, straight from horn to heart.” Their contagious and combustible energy has also been featured at the Newport Folk Festival and the Afropunk Festival.

Sunday celebrates a day of Alabama Music, presented by The Orion Amphitheater. as immediately recognizable and impossible to ignore. Since first touring in his early 20s, McDonald’s various bands have been featured in Rolling Stone, Billboard, Yahoo and American Songwriter.

- arthuntsville.org



“We are Africans not because we are born in Africa, but because Africa is born in us.”

– Chester Higgins, Jr.



Perspectives on
God Views
+
Current News

by tim allston

“A Tale of Two (Capital) Cities”: Kyiv, Ukraine, and Washington DC

Two news stories dominated our last full week in March: Russia’s bombardment of Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, and the Republicans’ attempted bombardment of Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson in Washington DC, our nation’s capital.



Based upon the historic resolve of those two intended targets, History will show that neither set of bombardments will succeed.

Vladimir Putin is attempting to return Russia to its former Soviet Union territory and dominance by forcibly overtaking its former territories such as Ukraine, which are now independent states since 1992.

Similarly the Republican Party led by older white men is seeking to hold on to its weakening grasp of power, supremacy, and dominance against the growing diversity of American culture.

Jackson represents the first African-American woman to be considered in the Supreme Court’s 233-year history. Her combined blackness and womanhood represent this country’s most influential and consistently growing voting power base, black women. President Biden’s nominating her underscored that reality.

Despite Ukraine’s heavy bombardment, escalating civilian deaths, and millions of displaced citizens, Russia will not overtake Ukraine and its people’s resolve to be free and independent.

And no amount of verbal bombardment, unethical questioning, and groundless character assassination will derail black folks’ and womens’ increasing assent to the nation’s highest court through Judge Jackson.

The cases against Ukraine and Judge Jackson are as groundless as Jesus’ parable of the houses built on the sand and on the rock foundations. Matthew 7:24-27 records that the house built on sand collapsed when hit by storms, but the house that withstood the storms was the one built on a solid foundation of rock.



We should all build our life’s foundation not on the flimsy sand of un-principled beliefs and practices, but instead on the solid rock foundation of God’s word.

Rock on, Ukrainian people! Rock on, Ketanji Brown Jackson!
- tim allston

COVID-19 Assistance

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Get Assistance: Call 211

SMALL BUSINESSES

disastercustomerservice@sba.gov
(800) 659-2955

COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

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labor.alabama.gov

MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (256) 539-3711

LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health
www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov

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https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/

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A New Generation Of Service

APRIL 1 - SEAN TAYLOR - Sean Michael Maurice Taylor was an American football free safety for the Washington Redskins of the National Football League (NFL). He played for four seasons until his death in 2007. During the 2007 season, Taylor was shot by intruders at his Miami home and died 10 days later on November 27.
- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com

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“Those who say it can’t be done are usually interrupted by others doing it.”

- James Baldwin

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CALLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

The Sound of the Rushing of Rain

1 Kings 18:41 (ESV)

The word, drought, immediately conjures up not only lack of some kind, but a sustained lack. Although it primarily has to do with rain, the concept can be applied to different scenarios.

Water represents a life-giving source and naturally without it, living things that depend upon it eventually dies if rain doesn't once again begin to fall.



Life is full of periods of droughts of various kinds, but for the believer there is a way to "go through" that will help sustain him/her during those times.

The prophet Elijah gives some helpful holy hints in how to conduct ourselves in the meantime.

The first thing is to keep *living as a servant*. Servants of God cannot afford to stop serving simply because there is a drought because others need a visible and viable example of how to go through times of drought.

Elijah continued to serve God through continuous proclamation of what thus says the LORD. Elijah was not only responsible for telling King



pxbq.com/Alexa Fotos

Ahab of the drought and why God was sending it, but because the same God is in charge of the rain, Elijah also delivered the good news of the coming rain.

Therefore, not only did he keep living as a servant, but he also kept *listening for the sound*.

This was not just going to be a little sprinkle but

rather a *rushing of rain; an abundance*.

Finally, keep *learning what God says*.

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, April 3, 2022
Fifth Sunday in Lent

(Track 2 - Year C)

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

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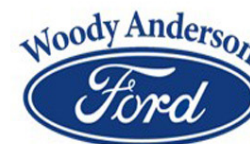


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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

LTG (Ret) James M. Link

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) James M. Link, former president of Teledyne Brown Engineering, amassed considerable experience in technology and systems modernization gained during a long and distinguished military career. Prior to the post at Teledyne, Gen. Link also served as senior vice president at SAIC, also in Huntsville, Alabama.

Gen. Link held several command and staff positions while on active duty. He served as Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command from 1998-2000. He also served as Chief of Staff prior to that. From 1994-97, he has served as Commander of the U.S. Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama (now Aviation and Missile Command). He was Deputy Commander, 21st Theater Army Area Command, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army from 1993-94.

Moreover, Gen. Link has held various logistical, training and staff assignments, including command positions during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In Vietnam, he served as a company Commander in the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Gen. Link earned his undergraduate degree at



Methodist College, and he completed graduate study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has a master's degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee, and he attended the Harvard University JFK School of Government in 1995. He received military education from the Army Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

His numerous affiliations have included the Huntsville Rotary Club, Association

of the United States Army, National Defense Industrial Association, Army Space Missile Defense Association, Society of Logistics Engineers, Army Aviation Association of America, American Helicopter Society, Army Aviation Corridor of Excellence Executive Planning Board, and Huntsville Federal Agency Task Force.

He has been married and has traveled the world with Judy, his wife of more than 45 years.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY ALL FOR THE FAMILY Try a Little Kindness

Kindness is one of the nine virtues of the Fruit of the Spirit. More can be accomplished with kindness than with force. It is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see. It is doing what you can, when you can with what you have.

Practicing kindness with family and friends not only deepens connections and creates stronger bonds, but brings feelings of joy for you and your loved ones.

The late Maya Angelou maintained that an individual may forget what you said about or did to them, but they will never forget how you made them feel. Ephesians 4:32 encourages us to "be kind to one



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you".

Kindness must extend beyond age, race, creed and socio-economic status. It can soften the hardest hearts. Forgiving someone who hurts you is one of the greatest acts of kindness

that you can give.

Do not underestimate the power of kind words, a smile, a gentle touch, a listening ear or performing a simple deed. Kindness is love made visible.

~Think About It~

During offertory in many churches, members often sing "you can't beat God giving, no matter how hard you try. The more you give, the more He gives to you."

Amid the growing tragedies, fears and anxieties in today's world, try giving a little kindness or performing a kind deed for someone sometimes.

Sources

- 1) healthyrelationshipsinitiative.com
- 2) Study Guide of the Woman's Auxiliary, March 2022

"Peace, it's wonderful."

- Father Divine



"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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AAMU Prepares for Wims Investiture

A team of Alabama A&M University students, faculty and staff, alumni and other community supporters are in the final stages of preparation for the investiture ceremony of the 147-year-old institution's 12th president, Dr. Daniel K. Wims on Friday, April 29, at the Thomas M. Elmore Building at 10 a.m.

Dr. Wims earned the Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy in June 1987 at Fort Valley State University and the Master of Science degree in agricultural extension from The Ohio State University in 1989. In August 1994, he received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Maryland-College Park. A graduate of Harvard University's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education, Dr. Wims is also a product of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Millennium Program and Hampton University's Executive Leadership Development Program.

The nearly 50-member Wims investiture committee is being led by AAMU Board President Pro Tempore Jerome B. Williams. Dr. Jeanette Jones, University Distinguished Professor, trustee and Faculty Senate president; and Felicia Wil-

son, General Manager, AAMU Aramark, serve as the committee's co-chairs. Alabama State Representative Laura Hall is honorary chair.

Organizers began planning for the ceremony during the fall semester, and a separate Presidential Transition Team (led by Dr. Tonya Perry, chair; Dr. Kylie Nash and Gerald Vines, co-chairs; Dr. Jeanette Jones, special liaison to the Board of Trustees; and Dr. Charlotte Teague, secretary) developed a 12-week series of events leading up to and culminating with the investiture. All activities were linked to the investiture theme, "Advancing Our Legacy, Reimagining Our Future."

Each week of the "Investiture Countdown" highlights a key University constituent group and provides an opportunity for Wims to interact and receive valuable input and ideas. The 12-week series opened with a "Student Engagement Week," which ran from February 7-13, and concluded with a "Investiture Week" (April 25-30). Among the key constituent groups are faculty, staff, alumni, religious/civic groups, and several others.

The culminating week will



feature two panel discussions moderated by President Wims. The panels, which will respectively highlight "Advancing Our Legacy" and "Reimagining Our Future," will feature invited guests, including former presidents, and alumni [Tuesday, April 26, and Thursday, April 28, 12-2 p.m. via Zoom].

The week will culminate on April 29 with the Investiture of AAMU's 12th President at 10 a.m., and a Presidential Luncheon will follow. The optional Black-Tie Scholarship Gala, featuring R&B singer Avery Sunshine, will celebrate AAMU scholarship recipients, recognize donors and honor the newly installed President Daniel K. Wims.

For additional information, visit www.aamu.edu and click "Investiture".

by Jerome Saintjones

HPD's Recruiting Officers

For those considering a rewarding career in public safety, now's their chance to learn about the exciting opportunities available at the Huntsville Police Department (HPD).

HPD will host an informal meet-and-greet event

on Wednesday, March 23, from 5-7 p.m. at the City of Huntsville's new Public Safety Training Complex, 5365 Triana Blvd. Attendees will get a behind-the-scenes look at how HPD operates and talk with officers about joining the

force.

The department is currently taking applications for both rookie and lateral officers. For details about the hiring process or benefits of working for the City of Huntsville, visit JoinHuntsvillePD.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.