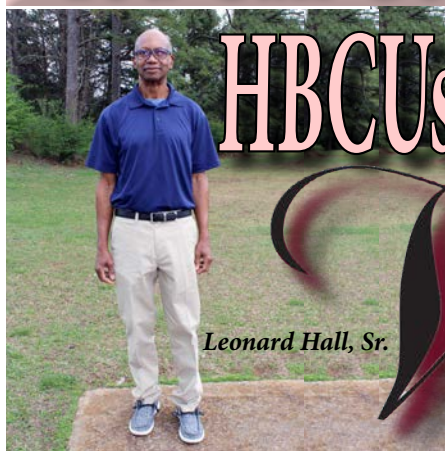


You Can Go Home Again: Honduras Bound - p. 8

FREE



Leonard Hall, Sr.

HBCUs Win Marketing Honors - p. 7

Friday
April 5, 2024
Vol. 10, No. 31
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Josephine Robinson

The Valley Weekly

GLORIA B. "GOING TO FIND OUT!" - p. 5

"Every man is guilty of all the good he did not do." - Voltaire

Big Maroon Saturday at A&M April 6

A Saturday filled with exciting events on The Hill is set for April 6. Activities include Open House, baseball and softball games at the AAMU complex, the Cruising at Crews Car & Bike Show, the AAMU Football Maroon and White Spring Game at Louis Crews Stadium, and more.

Five Things to Do at Big Maroon Saturday:

9:00 a.m. – Attend Open House to learn more about AAMU
11:00 a.m. – Check out the rides at the Cruising at Crews



Car & Bike Show
12:00 p.m. – Cheer on AAMU Softball vs. Mississippi Valley

2:00 p.m. – Catch AAMU Baseball vs. Mississippi Valley
4:00 p.m. – Get a

First Look at 2024 AAMU Football at the Maroon & White Spring Game

Downtown Vintage Market Next Weekend

Downtown is buzzing with excitement as One Man's Vintage, Huntsville's local vintage shop, hosts Huntsville's Downtown Vintage Market from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, on the ground floor

of the Greene Street Parking Garage.

Explore vintage gems from over 40 vendors, offering plenty of unique pieces from clothing to decor to collectibles. These pieces vary all the way from the 50's to

the '00s, so there's always a great selection of items to look through!

Also, enjoy an amazing set from our DJ and delicious bites from local food trucks.

Best of all, it's completely free

to attend so grab your friends and family, come shop, and enjoy the day downtown!

For more information, please visit: <https://www.onemansvintage.com/huntsvilles-downtown>

Workshop Targets Mental Health

NFL veteran Trey Flowers, The Players Coalition, Flowers of the Future and Alabama A&M University are sponsoring "Mental Health & Mindfulness" on Saturday, April 13, at the AAMU Student Health and Wellness Center, 2-4:30 p.m.

Coordinated by AAMU's Health & Counseling Services and the Inter-Residence Hall Council, the session will feature Dr. Dawn Brown, double-board certified child adolescent, adult & sports psychiatrist; and author and The Unionfounder Jason Wilson.

Other presenters will include senior behavioral specialist Jared Green; Dr. Ahada McCummings, LPC; Jilian Pelzer, LPC; and (Moderator) Erica Fox, WJAB-FM Radio 90.9. The public is invited.

Harris Home Readies for 70th Anniversary

Harris Home for Children, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, will hold its 70th Anniversary Celebration with two-time Super Bowl Champion Trey Flowers, Miss America, Miss Alabama, and a host of other celebrities.

WAFF Channel 48 Payton Walker, anchor and host of "Tennessee Valley Living," and Kenny Anderson, host of "Impact with Kenny Anderson," will be the emcees.

The Harris Home for Children 70th Anniversary Celebration on April 11, 2024 kicks-off with a VIP Reception at 5 p.m. for top sponsors to meet and have their pictures taken with the celebrities. The event starts at 6 p.m. at the Von Braun Civic Center Saturn Ball Room (formerly North Hall). Tickets, Sponsorship opportunities, and donations are tax deductible. For information and

registration: bit.ly/HarrisHome-70thRegistration. The event will be filled with dining; appearances by Trey Flowers - Huntsville native and two-time Super Bowl Champion of the New England Patriots; Miss America - Second Lieutenant Air Force Pilot Madison Marsh; and Miss Alabama Brianna Burrell; a special Light Ceremony; and entertainment by Junctional Rhythm.

The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Washington in One Minute, Page 2
Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 3
"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 4
Caldwell & Allston: Perspectives, Page 5
Sunday Lectionary, Page 5
Honoring Our Elders, Page 6

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The Valley Weekly

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Eighth Page 2.5x5 inches \$150

Sixteenth Page 2.5x2.5 \$75

Classified 1 col.x1 inch \$100/Flat Fee

Drake State Student Named 2024 New Century Workforce Scholar

Drake State Community and Technical College is proud to announce that one of its many outstanding students, Jadyn Johnson, has been named a 2024 New Century Workforce Scholar.

This prestigious recognition comes with a \$1,500 scholarship, marking a significant milestone for Jadyn and for the institution.

This scholarship is the first of its kind to support students at associate degree-granting institutions on a national scale as they plan to enter the workforce upon completing a degree or certificate.

The program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta

Kappa Honor Society. "Receiving the 2024 New

Century Workforce Scholar scholarship is a tremendous honor, and I am grateful for the support of The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. This scholarship not only acknowledges my academic achievements but also validates my com-



mitment to preparing for a successful career. I am excited to represent Drake State as I continue on my journey towards entering the workforce."

"Congratulations to Jadyn Johnson on being named a 2024 New Century Workforce Scholar," said Drake State

President Dr. Patricia Sims. "This prestigious scholar-

ship not only recognizes her academic excellence but also highlights her leadership and commitment to extending her talents beyond the classroom. Drake State is proud to support Jadyn and the other scholars as they prepare to enter the workforce and achieve their career goals."

New Century Workforce Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. Over 2,200 students from more than 1,300 college campuses nationwide were nominated. Only one New Century Workforce Scholar

was selected from each state.

"We congratulate Jadyn for receiving this prestigious scholarship, and we are honored to partner with The Coca-Cola Foundation to recognize these outstanding achievements," said Phi Theta Kappa's President and CEO, Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner. "Scholarship programs like this are integral for creating opportunities for students to succeed as they prepare to enter the workforce and for putting college completion within reach."

The New Century Workforce Scholars will be recognized in the fall.

Safeguarding Your Finances: Ways to Protect Yourself from Fraud

(BPT) - In today's digital age, the growing portion of our lives taking place online has led to an increased risk of fraud.

Cybercriminals are getting smarter and constantly finding new ways to exploit vulnerabilities. In fact, 2023 was the worst year ever for scams, causing people to lose \$10 billion according to the FTC.

Yet, that doesn't mean you need to panic! New technologies are helping protect individuals from scams before they even happen. And by taking a few simple steps, you can ensure your transactions and personal information are kept secure.

Keep Your Devices Updated:

One of the fundamental steps in fortifying your defense against fraud is to ensure that your devices, including smartphones, tablets and computers, are running

on the latest operating system and software updates ...

Avoid Public Wi-Fi for Online Shopping:

Public Wi-Fi networks, while convenient, are hotspots for potential security breaches ... It's advisable to avoid making online purchases or accessing your financial accounts when connected to public Wi-Fi. Instead, use a secure and private connection, such as a personal hotspot or a trusted home network, to conduct sensitive transactions.

Use Your Smartphone's Digital Wallet:

Your smartphone's digital wallet isn't just super convenient, but it's also a more secure way to pay. By setting a unique passcode (that isn't your address, birthday or phone number) and biometrics (such as facial recognition or fingerprint), your digital wallet will be even

more secure than your physical one!

Shop at Reputable Vendors:

When shopping online, it's crucial to stick to reputable vendors and well-known e-commerce platforms. Be wary of unfamiliar websites that may lack the necessary security measures to protect your personal and financial information ...

Use Multi-Factor Authentication:

Enhance the security of your online accounts by enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) whenever possible. MFA adds an extra layer of protection by requiring users to verify their identity through a secondary method, such as a one-time code sent to their mobile device or email ...

Zero-Liability Has Your Back:

Financial institutions that

issue Mastercard cards won't hold consumers responsible for "unauthorized transactions," provided they are promptly reported and the cardholder used reasonable care in protecting the card from loss or theft. As a Mastercard cardholder, Zero Liability applies to your purchases made in the store, over the telephone, online, or via a mobile device and ATM transactions. With protections like that, paying with your card brings more peace of mind than paying with cash or check.

Mastercard has an entire suite of solutions dedicated to fighting fraud and helping approve genuine transactions. That includes identity solutions that validate you are a genuine person; ID Theft Protection, which provides proactive monitoring and resolution of identity theft threats for U.S. Mastercard cardholders; SafetyNet, which leverages AI and

machine learning to detect and address fraud more accurately and more quickly than ever before, and more.

Protecting yourself from fraud requires a combination of awareness, vigilance and proactive measures. Stay informed, stay cautious and take the necessary steps to fortify your digital defenses in the ever-evolving landscape of online security. Learn how Mastercard protects cardholders at <https://www.mastercard.us/en-us/personal/get-support/safety-security.html>.

"Hate is too great a burden to bear."

- Coretta Scott King

The Valley Weekly
Spiritual Game Plan
 PRESTON BROWN'S



“Don’t Focus on the Crisis”

Hebrews 10:35 tells us, *“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.”*

I believe that anytime we face crises in our lives, it’s not unusual for us to lose our confidence. When we lose our confidence, we lose our capability of doing what God has called us to do.

In this scripture, the writer of Hebrews tells us not to throw away our confidence. He says not to focus on the crisis but on Christ. Don’t focus on your circumstances, but focus on the one who can save you from your circumstances.

One of the things we all need to realize is that we may endure crises in our lives and we may lose people that we love, but we should not lose our confidence.

I remember losing my mother while I was in training camp with the New England Patriots. I kept my confidence and still made the team that year.

I lost my wife Linda of thirty years, but I kept my confidence and went back to work. I began to preach God’s word at the 8:30 praise and worship

service at Lakeside United Methodist Church. I also wrote a daily devotional, *A Champion Game Plan for Life*.

I believe that God will give all of us testimony from our tests if we don’t give up. I also believe that we may lose a lot of things in life, but if we keep our confidence, God will show us new days, new lives, and new directions. Don’t focus on the crisis and don’t throw away your

confidence because it will be richly rewarded if we stay inside of God’s good and perfect will for our lives.

May God grant you spiritual success with keeping your confidence in a crisis.

Question: What problems have you had in your life that caused you to lose your confidence in your ability to handle certain situations? What did you do?

Stay encouraged my brothers and sisters and make sure you purchase a copy of my books, *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A*



Champion Game Plan for Life, at amazon.com, or my website at Westbow Books.


NEXT WEEK:

“What’s Holding You Back?”

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home
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THE VALLEY WEEKLY
VALLEY DEATHS



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www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Funeral service for MS. NESHAWNNA GARNER (b.1973) was held Saturday, March 30, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. SAMUEL WARD (b. 1984) was held Saturday, March 30, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. DAVID FLETCHER (b. 1952) was held Tuesday, March 26, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW
 Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189
www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral services for MR. REGINALD F. FOSTER (b.1967) will be announced at a later date.

The memorial service for MR. JAMAL B. DUPAS (b. 1985) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for MRS. VIRGINIA LESLIE BONE (b. 1934) will be Thursday, April 4, at 12 p.m. at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Timothy Rainey officiating.

Funeral service for MS. BELLE BONE was held Wednesday, March 27, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 315 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW
 Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481
www.royalfh.com

The funeral service for MOTHER MILLIE M. GLOVER (b. 1938) will be 1 p.m., Sunday, April 7, at the Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church, 2115 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery, Sr. officiating.

The funeral service for MR. JOSEPH ALFRED PATRICK PATTERSON, SR. (b. 1957) will be 12 noon, Sunday, April 7, at the C.T. Richards Chapel in the Moseley Complex on the campus of Oakwood University, 5500 Adventist Boulevard, Huntsville, Ala., with Attorney Marvin Patterson as eulogist and Dr. Preston Patterson officiating.

The funeral service for MR. BRANDON ALEXANDER STEWART (b. 1999) will be 2:30 p.m., Saturday, April 6, 2024 at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Michael Hamilton officiating.

The Valley Weekly
VALLEY
EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

April 4-6

Rocket City Regional
 (High School Robotics)
 700 Monroe St. SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

with Nan Jacobsohn
 Tickets: SullivanPotteryHsv.com
 2315 Triana Boulevard SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

April 6

TAC Autocross Championship Series Event
 Milton Frank Stadium
 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

“Breathe for Wellness”
 Waterfall Yoga Therapy
 715 Arcadia Circle NW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 9:30-11:30 a.m.

STEAMposium 2024
 Empowering Youth Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (e-STEAM) - Calhoun Community College
 102 Wynn Drive
 Huntsville, Ala.
 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The Official 2024 Expo
 After Party Event - Cosplay Comedy
 Shenanigans Comedy Theatre
 2650 Leeman Ferry Road
 Suite A
 Huntsville, Ala.

Lynyrd Skynyrd & ZZ Top
 Propst Arena
 Von Braun Center
 7 p.m.

April 20
 Sourdough Bread April Class 101
 University Pickers-Hsv
 3405 Triana Boulevard SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 10 a.m.-12 Noon

April 12-14

Monster Jam
 Propst Arena
 Von Braun Center
 Huntsville, Ala.

May 4

Donate Life Alabama
 Donor Dash for Life 5K
 Veterans Park
 Hoover, Ala. - 8 a.m.

April 13

Animal Masks Workshop

May 10

Exhale Huntsville - A
 Mother's Love Girls Night
 Out
 Huemanity Studio
 Huntsville, Ala.
 7 p.m.

May 18-19

Rocket City BBQ & Soul
 Fest
 National Speleological Society
 Huntsville, Ala.
 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

May 25

Memorial Day Ride &
 Event
 Redstone Harley-Davidson
 Sponsor: Morgan County
 Sheriff's Posse Special
 Needs Program
 15100 Old Highway 20
 Madison, Ala. (\$20/Rider)
 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

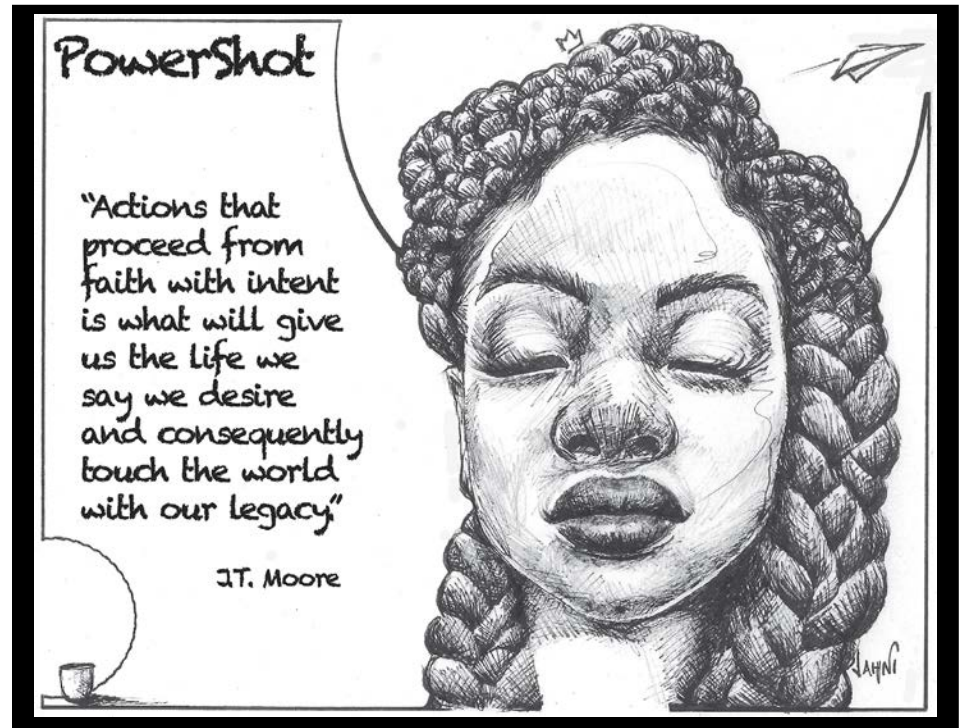
ON THIS DAY



In the early hours of the morning on April 5, 1880, Cadet Johnson Whittaker, one of the first Black students in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, was brutally beaten by white cadets while sleeping in his barracks.

- bet.com and wikipedia.org

APRIL 5 - BOOKER T. WASHINGTON - Washington was from the last generation of black American leaders born into slavery and became the leading voice of the former slaves and their descendants. They were newly oppressed in the South by disenfranchisement and the Jim Crow discriminatory laws enacted in the post-Reconstruction Southern states in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was a key proponent of African American businesses and one of the founders of the National Negro Business League. His base was Tuskegee Institute, a historically black college in Tuskegee, Ala. As lynchings in the South reached a peak in 1895, Washington gave a speech, known as the “Atlanta compromise”, which brought him national fame.
 - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



*“It is difficult to free fools
 from the chains they revere.”*

- Voltaire

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Going to Find Out!

Millennial Moment by Gloria B. Caldwell

Question: How many times have you been watching something, or heard about something and said, "Hmm, I could have done that?" Your mind starts churning, thinking about the things you could "possibly" do, or would desire to do. Well ...What's stopping you from doing those things?

One of my favorite

speakers said, "You've got to stay here until you go!



Why not see how much you can do?" (Jim Rohn) I'm asking you, "Why not?"

Why not push past your lack to get to your abundance? What's it going to take to put your thoughts down on paper, focus, and make them become something real?"

I've become this person that is willing to push pass the odds, and my fears. I have developed the mind-

that doesn't mean that I am the best at doing it! It doesn't mean I am the quickest, strongest, or the smartest!

However, these things I keep attempting, and succeeding with, lead to other things, other connections, and other possibilities I have no clue existed! It has

opened my eyes up to a different world! A world that has been here the whole time!

Oh, the possibilities!

You too, are existing in this same world! Stop just existing, and live! Go find out!

Go! Try! Seek! Attempt to do those things that

come to mind. One step at a time! You'll discover a whole new you! It's so exciting! I promise!

Come with me on this journey. I'm Going to Find Out!

Have a wonderful Friday!

God loves you, and so do I!

He's given you a gift. Open it!!

- The Pretty Pour

set, "I may not be able to, but I'm going to find out!"

Ever since I've absorbed that, spoken that, and believed that, with faith, there has been NOTHING I've thought I could do that wasn't possible! Now,

Huntsville Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council's 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.

Council work sessions are also held in the 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.

"You have to be prepared to die before you can be prepared to live."

- Fred Shuttleworth

This Sunday's Lectionary

(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

Second Lesson:

1 John 1:1-2:2

GOSPEL:

John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of

EASTER



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), disorganization, 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 eliminated, 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.



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"Leading from the Middle"
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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Mrs. Josephine Robinson

Josephine Lightford Robinson was born in Madison County, Alabama. She is the daughter of the late Alma Ragland Crutcher and Ennis Lightford. Josephine is a graduate of William Hooper Council High School in Huntsville, Ala., and attended Alabama A&M University in Normal, Ala., where she majored in mathematics and chemistry. Josephine would later marry her high school sweetheart, Dinsimore G. Robinson, Sr. They have three children: Sylvia Seldon, Joyce Ward, and Dinsimore G. Robinson, Jr.; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In 1977, Josephine became the Executive Vice President of the D.G. Robinson Corporation, Inc. Through prayer and hard work, she and her husband grew their dream business into a respected corporation operating in the Southeastern parts of the United States. Their business provided multiple services to government and industry



for over a 25-year period, employing people in the states of Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana, Georgia and Mississippi.

Her leadership roles included Chapter President, Regional Historian, and National Nominating Chair. Over the years, Josephine has received numerous plaques, citations, and resolutions

from organizations at the local, state and national levels for her professional, community, and philanthropic contributions. Some of the awards included: Distinguished Service Award from Oakwood University, and the Community Service Award from the Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc.



"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.

Mask Workshop Hosted by Sullivan Pottery

Sullivan Pottery is having an exciting two-day workshop with amazing artist Nan Jacobsohn April 13-14!

Attendees will make a clay sculptural animal (of your choice) mask.

Nan will also explore enhancing your finished

piece with found objects such as fiber, metal, wood and more.

It's going to be fabulous!! Check our website for more details and to register. SullivanPotteryHsv.com under Special Events.

We can't wait to see you!



Sheryl Underwood's Coming to the Rocket City

Comedian, actress and television host Sheryl Underwood is part of the list of talent appearing at Stand Up Live Huntsville during the month of April.

Underwood will perform Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20. For ages 19 and up, tickets



range between \$35 and \$45 each.

Underwood is a host on the CBS Daytime talk show *The Talk*, becoming the show's longest running co-host, a role she first stepped into in September 2011. She has received one Daytime Emmy Award.

HPD Earns Ninth Advanced CALEA Reccreditation

The Huntsville Police Department (HPD) received its ninth advanced reccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), which reaffirms the department's commitment to providing exemplary service to employees and citizens.

To achieve advanced accreditation, an agency must demonstrate continued compliance with 460

law enforcement standards. The CALEA Board of Commissioners routinely re-evaluates these standards to help strengthen accountability within the agency and the community.

"We know Huntsville has one of the best public safety agencies in the country, and this reccreditation affirms that," said Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle. "It's also a testament to HPD's sworn officers

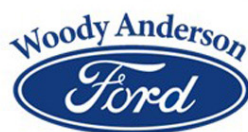
and civilians who serve our citizens daily, and we thank them for their service and sacrifice."

HPD was first accredited by CALEA in 1996 and has continued to earn its reccreditation every four years as the agency requires. CALEA assessors are granted access to HPD's policies, procedures, records and personnel as part of the accreditation process.

- Huntsvilleal.gov



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AAMU, HBCUs Receive Marketing Awards

Alabama A&M University and some fellow HBCUs submitted marketing entries and were noted among the best in higher education in the 2023 Collegiate Advertising Awards Program.

Recognized for the first time in University history, AAMU brought home five honors - two Gold Awards (first place) and three Silver Awards (second place) for various advertising and social media initiatives.

Last year's out-of-home, digital, transportation, radio and social media advertising strategies took AAMU into new territory as part of the first phase of an effort to increase brand awareness and affinity across the nation.

"We're honored to bring this recognition to The Hill," said Assistant Vice President Aaron Thompson. "We are building a team and strategy focused on elevating and sustaining the AAMU brand. These awards remind us that we're on the right track."

The Collegiate Advertising Awards recognize higher education organizations for excellence in communications, marketing, adver-

tising and promotions.

Other HBCU winners in the 5,001-10,000-student category include Florida A&M University (also 5 awards) and Jackson State University (2 awards). Within Alabama, Jacksonville State (2 awards) and Samford University (5



COLLEGIATE ADVERTISING AWARDS

awards) also received distinctions in the category.

In the 2,001-5,000-student category, HBCU Winston-Salem State received 3 distinctions.

Nominations are reviewed by a national panel of industry experts, with a possibility of 100 total points. Awards are issued for those receiving top marks from judges placing them in the top 16% of the nation for advertising excellence. Fees range from \$50 to \$75 per entry. There is no set number of awards. Depending on the number of entries per category and the quality of the materials the judges assign appropriate awards depending on the entry's overall score. The judges reserved the right to assign no winner

to a category if the quality of submissions does not meet their expectations.

AAMU's awards include:
GOLD - Radio Advertising Series: AAMU National Radio On-Air Campaign
GOLD - Fundraising Advertising: AAMU Marching Maroon & White Macy's Parade Drive
SILVER - Social Media Content: AAMU 2023 Homecoming Thank You

Video
SILVER - Social Media Marketing Series: AAMU 2023 "XXL Homecoming" Promotion
SILVER - Specialty Ad: - AAMU Nike Launch

"This recognition is a testament to the work of our team to present the AAMU brand in new ways on new platforms," said Vice President Jamal Ali. "We've only scratched the surface of where we'll go through consistent, efficient advertising strategy that shines a bright light on The Hill like never before."

All winners are posted on the Collegiate Advertising Awards website at www.CollegiateAdAwards.com.

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You Can Go Home Again: Man, Son Bound for Honduras on a Mission

After an eventful 46 years within the United States and abroad, Leonard Hall, Sr., will be returning to spend a week in Puerto Cortes, a small town in his native country of Honduras. Puerto Cortes is located on the northern, Caribbean coastline of Honduras.

Leonard and his son Leonard Jr, and at least a dozen others from metro Huntsville will travel as part of a medical and educational delegation spearheaded by St. Thomas Episcopal Church. The mission trip has been scheduled for April 20-27.

For Leonard, there is much to be excited about on this adventure.

For one, of course, there is the rare opportunity to visit his home country, praised for its amazing beaches along the Caribbean coastline, nearby vivid tropical forests, the vibrant Garifuna population, African and Spanish-infused cuisine and laid-back atmosphere.

Second, there is the mounting enthusiasm for the long-run educational mission. During the visit, Leonard will expound upon his decades of expertise, all learned and fine-tuned from the trenches and intricacies of technology,



computer programming and cybersecurity. Leonard remains fully aware that the same issues that confronted his family over generations still exist among the Honduran town's young men and women today. And, despite the undeniable tropical paradise, the average Honduran boy and girl will likely face economic hardships in terms of job opportunities, low wages, and the utter absence of upward mobility.

Third, Leonard is sponsoring a student through St. Thomas, enabling a youth to receive similar experiences in cultural exchange and understanding, service, spiritual growth, global awareness and social justice, as well as a sense of purpose and mission.

Fourth, and perhaps most important of all, is the fact that his outgoing son Lenny will be joining him on the trip to his childhood playground, a journey even his Alabama-born wife Brendlyn has never taken. For Lenny, the trip to his father's home country could foster cross-cultural ties and lifelong relationships and connections.

"This will give Lenny a new perspective," said the fatherly Leonard. "He has always been interested in other cultures. The people (of Honduras) need a lot of help in many different areas." More than 50 years ago, these same needs for better opportunities swept up Leonard's own father in a wave of migration. His father was born in Jamaica but later moved to the United Kingdom before settling in Honduras, where he worked for the United Fruit Company, then based in Boston. The powerful, and often considered ruthless, banana monopoly eventually morphed into Chiquita Brands International, with

administrative offices in Florida and Switzerland. Leonard, however, grew up among eight sisters and four brothers in a seem-



ingly dichotomous, utopic version of Tela, Honduras, where the diverse community was comprised of Spanish speakers, persons from the West Indies, European ex-pats channeled

from Venezuela, as well as other countries. Tela is located in the "department" (county) of Atlantida, and Puerto Cortes in the "department" (county) of Cortes, key tourist areas. Nonetheless, poverty and lack of opportunities abounded.

He attended Spanish and Episcopal schools. The entire family attended the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church affiliated with the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras. The current Bishop of the Diocese is Lloyd Emmanuel Allen, and he is a native of Tela,

as well.

But Leonard has not visited his home country since his military days in 1978, following basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. He then went to Germany for two years to work on the Pershing missile system from 1977-79. Leonard returned to Redstone Arsenal as an instructor in 1979, and he has performed in key positions ever since.

"I'm looking forward to going to Honduras and helping the people," Leonard said. "I feel incredibly grateful for the opportunity to help those in need. It's a humbling experience that reminds me of the blessings I have in my life."

*Photos and Story
by Jerome Saintjones*



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