

Valley Weekly Senior Editor Retiring from A&M- p. 2

FREE

The Life of Mary Allen Cook - p. 8

Friday
April 7, 2023
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ValleyWeeklyllc.com



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK

Mr. Allen Cothron



"I cannot hide my anger to spare you guilt, nor hurt feelings, not answering anger; for to do so insults and trivializes all our efforts." - Audre Lorde

Extension Agent Receives National Gardener Award



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's own Marcus Garner, an urban home grounds regional agent, has received a 2023 Great American Gardeners Award. Garner received the Emerging Horticultural Professional Award from the American Horticultural Society (AHS), which advocates for eco-friendly

and sustainable gardening methods. "This is one of the greatest honors of my career, especially being recognized by my peers," Garner said. "I am passionate about all things horticulture, and it's always a pleasure sharing this passion with the people of Alabama."

This award—first given in

2017—recognizes significant achievements and/or leadership advancing the field of horticulture in the U.S. As a graduate of Alabama A&M University (AAMU) and an employee of Alabama Extension at AAMU, Garner is the first awardee in this category from a historically Black college and university.

Drake State to Offer Free Amazon Certificate Course

Drake State Community & Technical College is hosting a free Fiber Optic Fusion Splicing Certificate Course in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Sumitomo Electric Lightwave April 17-18, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Madison County Career and Technical Center, located at 1275 Jordan Road. The AWS Fiber Optic Fusion Splicing Certificate Course is a two-day training on fiber optic installation and repair. The course is intended for anyone who wants to enter the fiber optic industry and learn the fusion splicing skill.

Fiber optic cables are the backbone of the modern world, carrying internet, TV, and telephone data. They are made up of tiny glass tubes, which makes repairing and testing them specialized work. These skills are increasingly needed to build out the world's data and communication networks like 5G as well as data centers. Given this need, and as part of Amazon's commitment to train 29 million people for free on cloud computing and technical skills by 2025, AWS has teamed up with Sumitomo Electric Lightwave to host free Fusion Splicing Certificate Courses at colleges across the US. Students accepted into this free program will also take part in a career networking session, allowing participants to meet local employers. Breakfast/lunch will be provided. **REGISTER**

City Boosts Enhancement of Pedestrian Safety Via New Sidewalks

The City of Huntsville underscored its commitment to pedestrian safety by committing to install about 3 miles of new sidewalks at various locations.

City Council on Thursday authorized Mayor Tommy

Battle to enter into an agreement with low-bidder SJ&L General Contractor LLC to perform the work. The contract agreement is \$1.3 million.

Specifically, the contract calls for installation of new

sidewalks and ramps and any other infrastructure to improve pedestrian access associated with these various projects throughout the city.

Specific locations are as follows:

Stevens Avenue from Russell Street to Maysville Road – 3,136 feet; South Shawnee Road from Dale Road to the Land Trust entrance – 3,000 feet; Wilkenson Drive from Meridian Street to Salem Drive – 2,000 feet; Quietdale Drive from Meridian Street to Vinyard Street – 2,000 feet; Benaroya Lane from Boulevard South to Byrd Spring Road – 1,601 feet; Valley Brook Drive from Vinyard Street to Belle Meade Drive – 1,478 feet; Sewanee Road from Governors Drive to Marshuertz

Avenue – 1,425 feet; Salem Drive from Wilkenson Drive to Melody Road – 1,076 feet; Melody Road from Salem Drive to Chase Road – 377 feet; Vanderbilt Drive from Monroe Street to Parkway.

Exciting Spring Jamboree Set at A&M Saturday

The Alabama A&M University Department of Athletics is 'going all out' on a festive, all-day Spring Jamboree that is loaded with events for the entire family.

On Saturday, April 8, Bulldog Athletics offers the community three contests, the first beginning with the spring football game at 10

a.m. The Bulldog softball team will take on Florida A&M at 12 noon, while the baseball team play against Bethune-Cookman at 1 p.m.

The event will encompass colorful inflatables; fun carnival games; a cover band and DJ playing classic hits; an open space for dancing; as well as a car

show, sections for registered student organizations (RSOs), civic organizations, vendors, food trucks, an ice cream truck and a cooling station.

For additional information, visit www.aamusports.com or @aamuathletics.

The Valley Weekly

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TVW Senior Editor Will Be Retiring from AAMU

The public relations director of Alabama A&M University has announced that he will begin his retirement May 1, following more than 30 years of service at the institution.

"It has been a great season, and I believe I filled a role at a crucial point in time that few would have been either able or willing to fill," said Jerome Saintjones, director of the Office of Marketing and Public Relations. In fall 1992, he was hired to handle public relations duties by Dr. Jeanette Jones, the celebrated mycologist who was then vice president of research and development. Dr. David B. Henson was president at the time.

"It was a tough period financially for AAMU, so anyone who could perform multiple functions was a tremendous asset, no matter how taxing it may have been to that person," Saintjones recalled. "Yet, I remember seeing a passion that kept many cars in the parking lot after 5 p.m. and often on weekends."

A native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Saintjones entered Tuskegee University initially to pursue his dream of becoming an architect, following being named Outstanding Draftsman of the Year at his local vocational school in 1977. However, because of an even stronger passion for creative writing, he changed his major to English early enough to remain a graduate of Tuskegee's centennial class in 1981. He served on campus committees, was managing editor of the college newspaper, won the Tuskegee Centennial Poetry Contest, and served as public relations coordinator and other positions for the Student Government Association. He persuaded his fellow SGA officers to convince the school administration to hold its student-oriented meetings in "the hot" SGA offices

instead of the Kresge Center and helped facilitate a move of mattresses out of rooms to the warmer dorm lobby when rooms were cold.

Upon his graduation with the B.A. in English, he was hired in Tuskegee's public relations office, where he worked for 10 years. Within that decade, he earned his master's degree in higher education administration at Auburn University, where he was often the only African-American in his classes ... It was during this period, that an Alabama A&M graduate, Erskine McKinnon, who was working at Tuskegee University at the time, informed him about an opportunity in Huntsville.

"Probably because there was a lot of turnover in the PR office until I arrived in 1992, doing a little extra could take you a long way," Saintjones said. "For a few weeks, I manned the office alone. Later, Thomas Colvin III joined as a graphic designer/creative coordinator. It was likely three years before Shirley Alexander joined as secretary, and likely 20 years later that Debra Daniel joined to handle social media ...

Nonetheless, Saintjones takes pride in purchasing A&M's first billboards, theatre ads, airport ads, and using every dime possible to assist minority businesses. He also said he wrote, designed and laid out hundreds of newsletters, magazines, brochures and other items, when outsourcing wasn't an option ...

"Some think that persons who serve long develop a resistance to change," Saintjones added. "I tend to disagree. Serving long doesn't come without some insight into nearly every change in the book. If you're lucky, sometimes you are blessed with an ability to see patterns. You recognize the welcomed arrival of the bright and the shiny, along with your silent role as coroner when things

go awry."

Since his days in junior high school, Saintjones has worked for only African-American entities for some 50 years, including setting up for a piano teacher, cleaning his church on weekends, serving as a dishwasher at Stillman College after high school classes, work-study and full-time employment at Tuskegee and serving as a staffer at A&M.

Favorite Interviews. When asked about his favorite interviews, he indicated that two stood out: "There was a time when Patti LaBelle was on campus to receive an honorary degree," he recalled. "She was alone in a room within the President's office at the time, and Mr. Michael Morns (from Electronic Media Communications) asked me to interview her. We talked about Old School soul music and other topics. I noticed a sweet humbleness that I thought was rare for one who had achieved so much. I really enjoyed talking with her."

Another interview involved an everyday, on-campus individual: "One of my favorite stories, however, was my interview of AAMU staffer Carla Draper Holloway of the Honors Center," said Saintjones. "She has a caring spirit and possesses a genuineness that is otherworldly. When she recalled to me how she put all of her being into holding on to her child who was being pulled away by a tornado, I knew then that she was a special person for whom the Lord has much in store."

After spending three decades in a place, there will be things that will be missed following a transition. Saintjones was asked to consider a few.

"I will miss the wide array of stories that seem to come out of nowhere," he said. "I liked trying to make complicated subjects more interesting, getting professors to dismiss the Ph.D.'s and relate

to everyday people as if their careers and grants depended on it.

"I definitely will miss the PR staff--Shirley, Debra and Linda. The four of us helped to develop an office that was nearly stress-free within. We created a welcoming space that allowed people to vent, offer their perspectives over tea, a snack or candy. Our snack area freely served staff and students in Patton Hall for some 20 years ... We handled calls from media, joked about the disparaging comments yet high demands placed on social media, served as an unofficial campus-wide switchboard, and provided many services to the campus community."

HBCU Experience. As a child, Saintjones grew up about one block from HBCU Stillman College and became fond of its family atmosphere. Nearly fifty years later in 2021, he penned the words to the official school song of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, another HBCU located in Huntsville.

Saintjones has always been an advocate for all HBCUs, but has not been afraid to ask the hard questions.

"The HBCU experience is fantastic in many ways," Saintjones said, "but I'd like to critically explore it in terms of the stresses it places on the individuals who have been nur-

tured by it and are helplessly in love with it. You can't be overcome by the savior complex. Simply, you must keep your integrity intact and walk away knowing that if there's some God left behind, it will sustain itself without you. Keep going forward; remember Lot's wife."

Throughout the years, Saintjones has served as a consultant for the Alabama Conference of Black Mayors, the National Conference of Black Mayors ... and other organizations. The Episcopalian has also served in various capacities at his church.

About 15 years ago, Saintjones said he was excited about earnest discussions at AAMU about the makings of a doctoral program in higher education administration. He enrolled in the Ed.S. program, hoping to one day switch into the long-awaited program and to become its first graduate but, several retirings and professor deaths later, it never materialized. He earned the Ed.S. degree from AAMU in 2011.

What's Ahead. What will he do after retirement? Is that trip to Africa still in the plans?

"I'll probably take the first few months to de-stress," Saintjones stated. "There'll probably be some withdrawals from not constantly having to do something at the last minute ... I'll finally edit the novel I have been putting off for better times. I'll also make some surprise visits to my dad



in Tuscaloosa. In terms of travel, the luster has dimmed somewhat on a future trip to the African continent. My lengthy experiences with African-Americans on this continent has led me to the point that I feel the color of the foot on your neck doesn't matter ...

Saintjones said he will focus more keenly on personal interests, including some yard work with wife Marilyn, giving requested advice for daughter Morgan, intense reading, creative writing, working on special projects with long-time friend Georgia S. Valrie, and enhancing his intense weekend hobby, The Valley Weekly (valleyweek-lyllc.com), the online newspaper founded by AAMU alum, entrepreneur and former administrator Dr. Dorothy W. Huston. He has served as the paper's senior editor for nearly a decade. "Thank you, A&M, for being a wonderful family," Saintjones concluded.

by Debra Daniel

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY
VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for **MRS. DEBRA ANN BAILEY HOBSON-HOWARD** (b. 1963) will be Saturday, April 8, at 2 p.m. at Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church with The Reverend Janice Mitchell Eason officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. JAMES EARL JEFFERSON** will be Sunday, April 2, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with The Reverend Larry Petty officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. HEDY IBEZIM PHILLIPS** (b. 1942) was held Saturday, April 1, at St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church with Pastor Dr. Maurice Wright officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Memorial service for **MR. MICHAEL AINSLEY SPRINGER** (b. 1955) will be 12 p.m., Saturday, April 8, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Endia J. Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. RODEAN C. RUSSELL** (b. 1953) will be held from 12:00 p.m., Thursday, April 6, at the Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church (7338 Ruth Avenue, Leeds, Ala.) with Reverend Dr. Larry Davidson officiating.

Funeral service for **REVEREND MELVIN BURTON** (b. 1957) was held Monday, April 3, at the Madkins Chapel C.P.C.A. (2403 Oakwood Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. H. Wendell Thompson officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. FANNIE MAE WILLIAMS** (b. 1927) was held Saturday, April 1, at the New Heaven Cumberland Presbyterian Church (24917 Garrett Road, Belle Mina, Ala.) with Pastor Fred Jefferson officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. SHIRLEY ANN HICKS HUGHES** (b. 1949) was held Saturday, April 1, at the Centerview Baptist Church (4460 County Road 89 N, Camp Hill, Ala.) with Pastor Don Darius Butler officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for **MR. KAUHRYN "DOUGHBABY" MCCAULLEY** (b. 2007) will be held Saturday, April 8, at Big Shiloh P. B. church, 133 Maple Street, Madison, Ala.

Funeral service for **MS. JANNIE JEFFERSON** (b. 1952) was Friday, March 24, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

NO FEAR

John 14:1 says, "Let not your hearts be troubled, believe in God, also believe in me."

Any time we are in a crisis situation, we have to learn to control our emotions. This verse tells us that we can control our emotions. God would not give



us a command that we could not follow. Therefore, if you really believe in the power of God, you will not panic. When we experience times of trouble, we have to use our faith. Because our faith can overcome all the fears that this world has to offer. So how do we know when we are in faith? I believe that we are in faith when we face a crisis situation and we still are at peace. Remember, the devil

does not want our stuff; he wants our peace. You see, when we panic, we release the power of fear, and fear is not from God (2 Timothy 1:7). But when we have faith, we release the power of God's love into our lives. God will give us what we need to deal with any crisis



that we face in our lives. Now, it's important to realize that the way we respond to a crisis will determine the outcome of our crisis. Remember when Jesus calmed the storm by saying "Peace be still" (Mark 4:39), and all was calm. Jesus can do the same thing in our lives if we put our faith and trust in the one who controls the winds and the rains. Any time we let "Jesus take the wheel" in a crisis situation, we can rest assured that the outcome will be positive in such a way that it will bring about a change and a new outlook on life. Question: Do you invite God into your crisis situation or do you deal with it in your own strength?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my book, "A Champion Game Plan for Life," at amazon.com

APRIL 7 - BILLIE HOLIDAY - Eleanora Fagan aka Billie Holiday, was an American jazz singer with a career spanning nearly thirty years. Nicknamed "Lady Day" by her friend and music partner Lester Young, Holiday had a seminal influence on jazz music and pop singing. Her vocal style, strongly inspired by jazz instrumentalists, pioneered a new way of manipulating phrasing and tempo. She was known for her vocal delivery and improvisational skills, which made up for her limited range and lack of formal music education.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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SERENITY FUNERAL HOME
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A New Generation Of Service

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

April 5

"Slam for S.A.A.M."

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Presenters: Alabama A&M University Department of Public Safety and AshaKiran

Guest speakers, Poetry, Music, Marching Maroon and White Band, The Bulldog Elite, Food, etc. Buchanan Hall
4:30-7:30 p.m.**April 6**

Virtual Event: Sexual Assault Awareness Month "Knowledge Is the Key to Unlock Healing"

Presenters: AshaKiran, Family Sunshine Center and Alabama A&M University
10 a.m.-2p.m.**April 8**

Concert

Anthony Hamilton with Leela James
The Orion Amphitheater
8 p.m.
<https://www.hudsonal->[pha.org/biasinsideus/](https://www.hudsonal-pha.org/biasinsideus/)**April 15**Campin' with K.D. First Annual Youth Football Camp
Hazel Green Athletic AssociationBilly Hunt Park
168 Carriger Road
Hazel Green, Ala.

7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

6th Annual Mustang Mud Run 5K/Obstacle Run

325 Slaughter Road
Madison, Ala.
8:30 a.m.**April 22**Huntsville Music+ Comedy Jam
Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment2211 Seminole Drive SW
Huntsville, Ala.

7:30 a.m.

Crawfish Festival

The Camp
5909 University Drive
Huntsville, Ala. - 12 noon**April 24-May 20**

"The Bias Inside Us"

Host: City of Huntsville
HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology
601 Genome Way
Huntsville, Ala.**May 4-7**

The Golden Celebration of the Class of 1973

Alabama A&M University
Check-In: Embassy Downtown Huntsville (May 4)
3-7 p.m.**May 5**

Spring Commencement 1 (Graduate Students)

Speaker: Mac McCutcheon
Madison County Commission

The Event Center - 9 a.m.

148th Founder's Day Luncheon

Ernest Knight Reception Center - 1:30-3 p.m.

Spring Commencement 2 (Undergraduates)

Speaker: Rep. Laura Hall
District 19
The Event Center - 5 p.m.**May 6**

AAMU Alumni Association Award & Scholarship Luncheon

Ernest Knight Reception Center

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.

ON THIS DAY

On April 7, 2010, Egypt took steps to formally ask Europe to return ancient artifacts stolen from the nation.

"No woman can love a weak man hard enough to make him strong."

- Pearl Cleage



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"The history of slavery is the history of the United States."

- Clint Smith

Massive 'Day of Service' Covers Huntsville Area

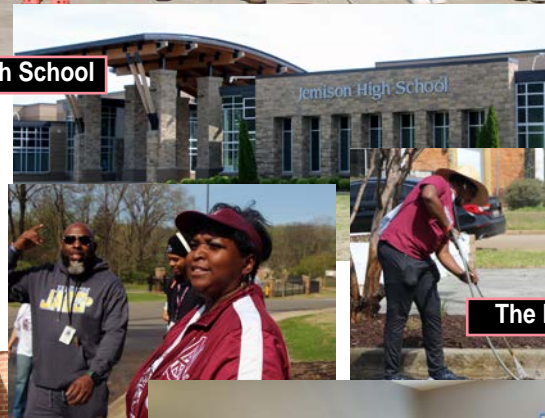
Hundreds of Alabama A&M University Students and Other Volunteers Canvas Community

Saturday, April 1, 2023

Campus Facilitators: Monica Clarke and Deborah Hill



Jemison High School



The Legacy Center



Rolling Hills Elementary



Riah Rose



The Legacy Center



Perspectives on
God Views
+
Current News

by tim allston

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 lawn care 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 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.

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/newsmakers 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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The Valley Weekly

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Half Page *Horizontal* 5x10 inches \$600*Vertical* 10x5 inches \$600

Fourth Page 5x5 inches \$300

Eighth Page 2.5x5 inches \$150

Sixteenth Page 2.5x2.5 \$75

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

Washington in One Minute



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

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in recess for the next 2 weeks. Before it left town last Thursday, the House approved on a mainly party-line vote of 225-204 one of its key agenda items, designated as H.R. 1, to encourage domestic fossil fuel production and speed up the federal permitting process. On Wednesday, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, CA, and invited a bipartisan delegation of lawmakers to participate in the meeting, including Members of the House's newly formed Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. As part of the Investing in America Tour, First Lady Jill Biden visited Colorado and Michigan on Monday and Maine and Vermont on Wednesday – joining Vice President Harris and 20 other members of the cabinet in traveling to 20 states to highlight the accomplishments of the Biden Administration over the next 2 weeks. Next Tuesday (April 11), the President will start a 5-day visit to both parts of Ireland to mark the 25th anniversary of the U.S.-brokered Good Friday peace accord.

3. INFLATION REPORT. On Friday, the Commerce Department announced that overall inflation, including food and energy prices, dipped to an annualized 5.0% in February, down from 5.3%

in January. The core index, closely watched by the Federal Reserve, which excludes food and energy, also decreased slightly to 4.6% from January's 4.7%.

4. NATIONWIDE OBAMACARE RULING. Last Thursday, Judge Reed O'Connor of U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas issued an order in a case he decided last September holding that a key provision of the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") that requires insurers and employers to cover preventive services for free, including cancer screenings and HIV drugs, is unconstitutional because the 16-members of the U.S Preventive Services Task Force that recommends which preventive services are covered are not appointed by the President nor confirmed by the Senate. His order striking down the provision applies nationwide and takes effect immediately. Judge O'Connor also invalidated Obamacare's HIV treatment mandate, saying it violated the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act by forcing the plaintiff, a Christian employer, to pay for insurance that covers HIV prevention drugs that plaintiff claims promotes homosexual behavior that conflicts with his faith and personal values.

5. HOUSE GOP VER-SUS NEW YORK D.A. Last Friday, the day after announcing the criminal indictment of former President Trump, the New York District Attorney sent a strongly worded letter to 3 House GOP Committee Chairs who are investigat-

ing District Attorney Alvin Bragg's grand jury proceedings against the former president. The letter refutes the idea that Congress has the jurisdiction to interfere with an ongoing state criminal prosecution and accuses them of "acting more like criminal defense counsel trying to gather evidence for a client than a legislative body seeking to achieve a legitimate legislative objective."

6. HIGHER EDUCATION. On March 23, the Department of Education (Department) issued a notice inviting applications for new

awards for fiscal year (FY) 2023 for the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP). The SIP Program provides grants to eligible institutions of higher education (IHEs) to help them become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the institution's academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability. The deadline to apply is May 22. The Department has posted an FY2023 application booklet with tips and assistance for prospective

applicants. Additionally, on March 31, the U.S. Education Department issued guidance to colleges, universities, and state higher education agencies on how they can help students access Student Eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other public benefits before the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023.

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HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES' BUSINESS MATCHMAKER EVENT

May 17, 2023
Von Braun Center



Small, Minority, Women & Veteran-Owned Business Expo

Huntsville Utilities is proud to host its second Business Matchmaker event, May 17 at the Von Braun Center.

This unique expo matches large companies with local minority, women, veteran-owned, and small businesses in north Alabama looking to expand their opportunities.

Companies who want to be part of this opportunity to create jobs, relationships, savings, and community growth, should click the Business Matchmaker link at www.hsvutil.org to receive additional information and fill out the registration form.

You can register as a:

Corporate Partner (large organization looking to diversify its supplier base, routinely purchases goods or services from other, smaller businesses), or,

Vendor (small, minority, veteran, or female-owned business looking to provide goods/services to Corporate Partners).

The event is free to Corporate Partners and Vendors. Participating Corporate Partners will receive 10x10 booth space with a table and two chairs at no cost.



HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES
ELECTRICITY • NATURAL GAS • WATER



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

Allen Cothron

Born in Scottsboro, Alabama, Mr. Allen (Ben) Cothron was the middle child of Joe and Ruth Cothron. He attended Carver High School 11 years before transferring to Council Training School in Huntsville, Alabama, from which he graduated in 1964.

Following high school, Cothron attended Alabama A&M College (University) for three years before being drafted into the Army. After completing six weeks of Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he received his first stripe of Private First Class. He was sent to the Adjutant General School at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana.

He was enrolled in the Stenography Class, which was an accelerated program. After completing the course, his first assignment was the Assistant to the Commandant of the Army Management School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. After a year at the Army Management School, Cothron received his orders for Vietnam. Upon arriving, he was assigned to the 18th Engineer Brigade in Cam Ranh Bay. While waiting for his new assignment, he filled sand bags for two weeks.

Finally, he was assigned to an artillery unit in Nha Trang, South Vietnam. He asked about his MOS (71C30 - Stenography) and



was told, "We don't need no stenographers; we need fighting men!" He was placed in an artillery unit (First Field Force Artillery Unit). He received his second stripe of corporal. Some of the decorations, medals, commendations, citations and campaign ribbons he received were: 1) National Defense Service Medal; 2) Vietnam Service Medal; 3) Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device; 4) Expert Badge (M-14 Rifle); 5) Expert Badge (M-16 Rifle); and 6) Special Training (71C30 Stenography).

After spending a year in Vietnam, he was stationed at Fort Eustis, Virginia, in the 1097th Transportation Company as Company Clerk. While at Fort Eustis, Cothron received his third and final stripe, the rank of Sergeant. After completing

his obligations to the U. S. Army, he was granted an Honorable Discharge. Following a short time in retirement, he went to work for Science and Technology Inc. (SCI), a civilian contractor company on Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. He worked as a facilitator/instructor, managing the Army Education Satellite Program. Among the courses he facilitated were: Defense Small Purchases; Defense Acquisition Contracts (Basic and Advanced); Contracting Officer Representative (COR); Provision; Basic Logistics Support Analysis and Commodity Command Standard System.

Cothron participated in many workshops and conferences designed to promote the intellectual warfare of the student. He retired after 10 year with Science and Technology Inc. After another short time in retirement, he was called back to Science and Technology Inc. by the Vice President, who wanted Cothron to join the "Score Team" and travel to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, to help revise the Standard Operation Procedure for purchasing material for the Army Installation, for which SCI had a service contract. After completion of the task at Fort Huachuca, he retired for the final time.

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Huntsville's 19th Century Black History

Telling Our Stories

Mary Allen Cook

Ollye B. Conley
Researcher

The Circle of Remembrance



Mary was born in 1805 and was enslaved in Huntsville, Alabama circa 1825. A free man of color from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania married her circa 1830.

He was the son of Bishop Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The questions are: Where did they meet? Where did they live? Did they have children? What did Mary do after her husband's death?

The article below appeared in The Huntsville Gazette following Mary Allen Cook's death. It provides pertinent information; however, it does not tell the complete story.

Cook – Tuesday night, June 23, 1855, Mrs. Mary Cook, aged about 80 years. Deceased sustained an exemplary and amiable character through her long career and died lamented by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. She was twice married, her second husband, John Cook, dying here some years ago. Her first husband was Peter

Allen, a colored fifer in the war for Texan independence, concerning whose tragic fate the Huntsville Independent says:

"When Capt. Peyton Wyatt and his boys came marching down the street one fine morning, all ready to go to Texas, Peter begged to be permitted to go along and make their marshal music for them. He went along and was afterwards captured with a portion of the company.

The cruel Santa Anta thumped up to Peter on his wooden leg, just as the captured soldiers were about to be shot, and ordered Peter, at the price of his life, to coax from his fife the notes of "Home Sweet Home," that his companions may hear and die with all deeper regret. "No" said the plucky faithful slave, "I will not play, but I will just go along with the rest of the boys." And that was the last of Peter.

Because Peter Allen died in Goliad, his heirs were eligible to receive Bounty and Donation land from the

Republic of Texas. Peter Allen's siblings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, filed a claim.

About 1866, a second claimant put in a claim based on Peter Allen's service. In a letter from James V. A. Hind of Huntsville, Alabama, Texas Commissioner of Land stated Peter Allen had a widow who wanted in on the claim. She wanted an augmentation on Allen's Peter headright claim to what he would receive as a married man over and above what his siblings had received as a single man.

Peter Allen's siblings counter-sued. They contended that Peter could not be legally married to an enslaved woman. The case was tried before the Texas Supreme Court. The Court ruled in favor of Mary, the widow. She received land, sold the land patented, without having to travel to Texas.

Did Mary use her money to purchase land in Huntsville, Alabama? Did she buy a home? Where? What did she do? I wonder ...

Bulldogs Baseball Team Drops Opener Against ASU



Huntsville City 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.

Errors were costly for Alabama A&M baseball on Friday afternoon, as A&M dropped the series opener against Alabama State by a score of 11-3 at the Bulldog Baseball Field.

The Bulldogs (10-13, 2-5 SWAC) got on top early with a pair of runs in the first. Tommy Easley tripled to left center to score Chevalier Dorris for the first run, followed by Jalen Parker driving home Easley on a single to center for the 2-0 lead.

Alabama State struck back in the top of the second inning with a pair of their own before A&M took the lead again at 3-2 in the fourth with a score from Jalen Ford on a Jared

Tribett groundout.

The Hornets broke the game open in the sixth with a five-run inning that included two RBI doubles, RBI single, sacrifice fly, and a score on a passed ball.

A pair of those runs were unearned, stemming from two of their season-high six errors in the contest. They later added three more in the seventh and a final in the eighth for the 11-3 final.

Easley led the Bulldogs at the plate on the day with a game high three hits along with driving in a run and scoring one of his own. The team earned nine total hits on the game, however left 15 runners on base.

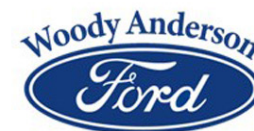


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