

# United States Colored Troops from Area- p. 8

**FREE**

# Your Statue of Liberty, p. 5

Friday  
April 28, 2023  
Vol. 9, No. 34  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

**SALUTE!**  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Sarah Drake



# Valley Weekly

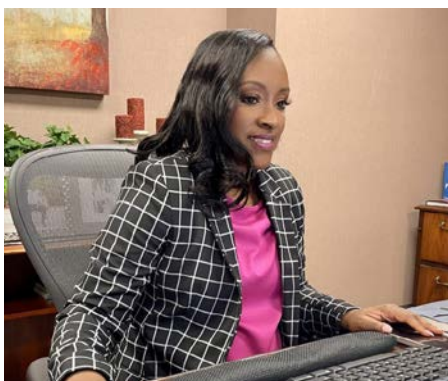
"When I discover who I am, I'll be free." - Ralph Ellison

## Huntsville Names New City Clerk

Mayor Tommy Battle announced the appointment of Shaundrika Edwards as Huntsville's new City Clerk. The Council unanimously approved Edwards' selection.

As City Clerk, Edwards will manage the highest level of municipal affairs and serve as the municipality's official record keeper and election manager.

"We are delighted Shaun-



drika Edwards has agreed to take on this important role, and we are confident she will do an amazing job for the City and our citizens," said Mayor Battle.

Edwards holds a master's and bachelor's degree in human resource management. She joined the City's Human Resources Department in 2017.

and continuing to support the Mayor and his vision for the Office of the City Clerk and City of Huntsville."

Edwards holds a master's and bachelor's degree in human resource management. She joined the City's Human Resources Department in 2017.

drika Edwards has agreed to take on this important role, and we are confident she will do an amazing job for the City and our citizens," said Mayor Battle.

In addition to the numerous tasks required of a City Clerk, Mayor Battle has also tasked Edwards with serving as a liaison to the City's outside agencies included in the an-

## Legacy Center Director Joins Foundation Board

The executive director of an area nonprofit has been elected to the board of a local foundation, started to celebrate volunteerism among the elderly and college students.

Morgan Saintjones, who runs the Legacy Center in Huntsville, has joined the board of the Rosetta James Foundation.

"I look forward to making a contribution to this respected board," commented Saintjones.

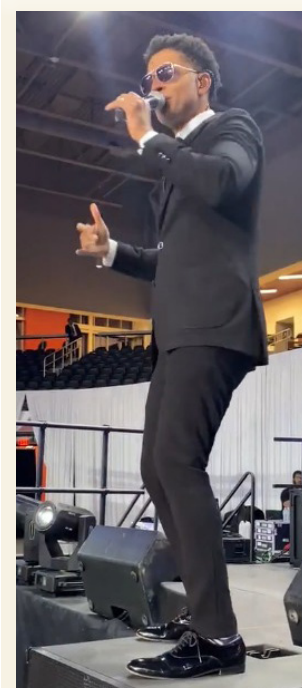


## Empowering Youth: STEAMposium Set for April 29

The 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville Inc., in partnership with the Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links Inc., the National Society of Black Engineers Professionals North Alabama Chapter, and National Coalition of 100 Black Women (Huntsville) are hosting the 2023

STEAMposium, April 29.

The theme is "ESTEAM, Empowering Youth through Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math." It is a platform to educate and expose participants to the various opportunities within the STEAM career fields. Exciting programs are



Songster Eric Benet performs for excited crowd at Alabama A&M University's Black Tie Gala on Friday, April 21.

## HBG Unveils First Wedding Expo

Whether you are starting your wedding planning journey, or you are tying up loose ends before the big day, Huntsville Botanical Garden (HBG) wants you to say "I do!" to attending the first Wedding Expo hosted at the Garden on Sunday, June 4, from noon-4 p.m.

Attendees will be able to discover everything essential for planning a wedding, all in one place, up close and in person.

"We want to make wedding planning as easy as possible by offering a variety of vendors all in place at one time," said

HBG Sales and Event Venue Manager Devante Williams. "This expo will give guests an opportunity to chat with the area's most talented wedding professionals as they taste delicious cakes, see beautiful flowers, find amazing decor, and discover solutions for all their planning needs."

Guests are encouraged to try samples, ask questions directly to vendors, and leave with a bag full of wedding planning swag.

Advance tickets are \$25. For more information, visit [bit.ly/expomoreinfo](http://bit.ly/expomoreinfo).

The Valley Weekly

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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 session this week. The big item on the House floor this week is the House GOP Leadership bill to raise the debt ceiling by \$1.5 trillion or suspend it through March 31, 2024, whichever comes first, in exchange for 320 pages of Republican priorities from stopping the Biden student loan forgiveness plan to rolling back federal domestic spending to FY2022 levels ...

**2. THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Tuesday, the President spoke at the North America's Building Trades Unions Legislative Conference at the Washington Hilton and he visited the Korean War Memorial with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who is in DC this week for a state visit. On Wednesday, the President welcomed President Yoon and First Lady Kim Keon Hee to the White House and host a state dinner for them that evening. On Friday, the President will present the Commander in Chief's trophy to the U.S. Air Force Academy Falcons football team. On Saturday, the President will speak at the White House Correspondents Dinner at the Washington Hilton. News outlets are reporting that the President may announce his candidacy for reelection this week. Last Tuesday, the White House released the 2022 tax returns for the President and Vice President: (1) the Bidens paid \$137,658 (23.8%) in federal taxes on an income of \$579,514; and (2)

Vice President Harris and her husband paid \$93,570 (20.5%) in federal taxes on an income of \$456,918 – the average for all U.S. households is 14%.

**3. SUPREME COURT.** In a brief, unsigned order issued at 6:30 p.m. last Friday, the Supreme Court granted a request from the Biden Administration and drug-maker Danco Laboratories to put on hold a ruling by Texas Federal District Court Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk that suspended the Food and Drug Administration's approval of mifepristone, part of a two-drug protocol used to end pregnancies in their early stages. The order freezes Judge Kacsmaryk's ruling until the proceedings in the 5th Circuit of Appeals and, if necessary, the Supreme Court have concluded. Among other cases this week, the court will hear arguments in the case of 93-year-old Geraldine Tyler, whose \$40,000 condominium in Minneapolis was sold by the county after she failed to pay \$15,000 in back taxes and thereby in her view was an illegal taking in violation of the 5th Amendment because the county kept the \$25,000 difference between the taxes owed and the value of the property (Tyler v. Hennepin County).

**4. POWER PLANT EMISSIONS.** According to Sunday's Washington Post, the Biden Administration is poised to once again tackle the issue of limiting pollutant emissions from coal- and gas-fired power plants. The proposal from the U.S. EPA would drastically reduce

greenhouse gas emissions by requiring that power plants use carbon dioxide capture technology to reduce emissions or switch to other fuels to comply by 2040. The Washington Post speculated that the proposed rulemaking could be released in the coming weeks to replace a 2015 regulation from the Obama Administration that was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2022, which would this time apply within a plant's fence line in lieu of the invalidated past rule that gave EPA the power to create a broad system of

cap-and-trade regulations to limit emissions.

**5. TITLE IX.** Last week, the U.S. Department of Education released a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on athletic eligibility under Title IX. The NPRM is intended to establish that policies violate Title IX when they categorically ban transgender students from participating on sports teams consistent with their gender identity and would apply to public K-12 schools, as well as colleges, universities, and other institutions that receive federal funding. The

proposed rule does, however, allow for certain circumstances where restrictions on athletic participation based on gender may be allowed. The Department will be accepting public comments for this rule until May 15, 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](http://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.



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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. JOSEPHINE F. HUMPHREY (b. 1954) was held Saturday, April 22, at Hurricane Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Minister Carl Smith officiating.

Funeral service for MINISTER TERRANCE DELMAR THOMPSON (b. 1975) was held Saturday, April 22, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with Pastor Michael Mastin.

Memorial service for MR. MICHAEL T. FORDE CLARK (b. 2004) was held Sunday, April 16, at Saint Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church.

Funeral service for MS. TOMONIA MARIE ("POOCHIE") HILL (b. 1970) was held Saturday, April 15, at Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Dr. Mario D. Ford officiating.

**ROYAL FUNERAL HOME**

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

Celebration of Life Service for MRS. BERNICE BOYNTON SMITH (b. 1934) was held Tuesday, April 25, at St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Belafonte Avenue, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Jaymes Mooney officiating.

Funeral service for MR. ELBERT CAMPBELL (b. 1959) was held Saturday, April 22, at the Convergence Worship Center (6300 Stringfield Road Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor James Morrise officiating.

Funeral service for MS. EVELYN TAYLOR (b. 1954) was held Saturday, April 22, at Syler Tabernacle (904 Oakwood Ave NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Dave Draper, Jr. officiating.

Funeral service for MR. HENRY BRYANT, JR. (b. 1944) was held Tuesday, April 18, at First Missionary Baptist Church (3409 Blue Spring Road, Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MS. LUCY THOMPSON (b. 1942) was held Saturday, April 22, at Saint James Primitive Baptist Church (1093 Fairbanks St NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Billy Jones officiating.

**SERENITY FUNERAL HOME**

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

Funeral service for MS. MARIE SHELTON (b. 1954) will be held Saturday, April 29, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel, Huntsville, Ala., at 2 p.m.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY  
**CHAMPION GAME PLAN**

PRESTON BROWN

**"MORE THAN POLITICS"**

Luke 15:7 says, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

You know, one of the things that I love most

about Jesus is that He meets us where we are, but refuses to leave us there. He meets us in our sinful ways and says, "Go and sin no more."



The main theme in the book of Luke is that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. And He was especially sensitive to those who

were hurting, because He knew that hurting people hurt other people. That's why He had no problem eating with sinners and tax collectors. In this scripture Luke talks about the

love that God has for sinners and he explains them in the form of "lost things". First a lost sheep. Then a lost coin. And then a lost son. In all of these stories the "lost" are found and when it happens, everyone rejoices. Even the angels in heaven rejoice. The message that is revealed here is, God places great value on one

repenting sinner. Therefore, clarifying his mission that "He came to seek and save sinners." Jesus came to deal with much more than "political issues" and financial statements.

Jesus reminds us that there will be more rejoicing over a redeemed soul,

than settling any differences of opinions that continue to dominate our way of life ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my book

"A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE" and my new book, "Spiritual Game Plans for A Successful Life," at amazon.com.



**APRIL 28 - TOO SHORT** - Todd Anthony Shaw aka Too Short (stylized as Too \$hort), is an American rapper, record producer, and actor. He is best known for his hit songs, such as "The Ghetto" and "Blow the Whistle". Too Short is credited as being one of the pioneer rappers of West Coast hip hop. He first began recording in 1985, becoming one of Oakland's better known underground emcees, before he signed a deal with Jive Records in 1987, releasing his mainstream debut album Born to Mack. He experienced his first widespread success with his 1989 follow-up album Life Is... Too Short, and remained one of the most popular rappers into the 1990s. His rap lyrics are primarily about pimping, drug use, surviving and promiscuity. - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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**A New Generation Of Service**

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

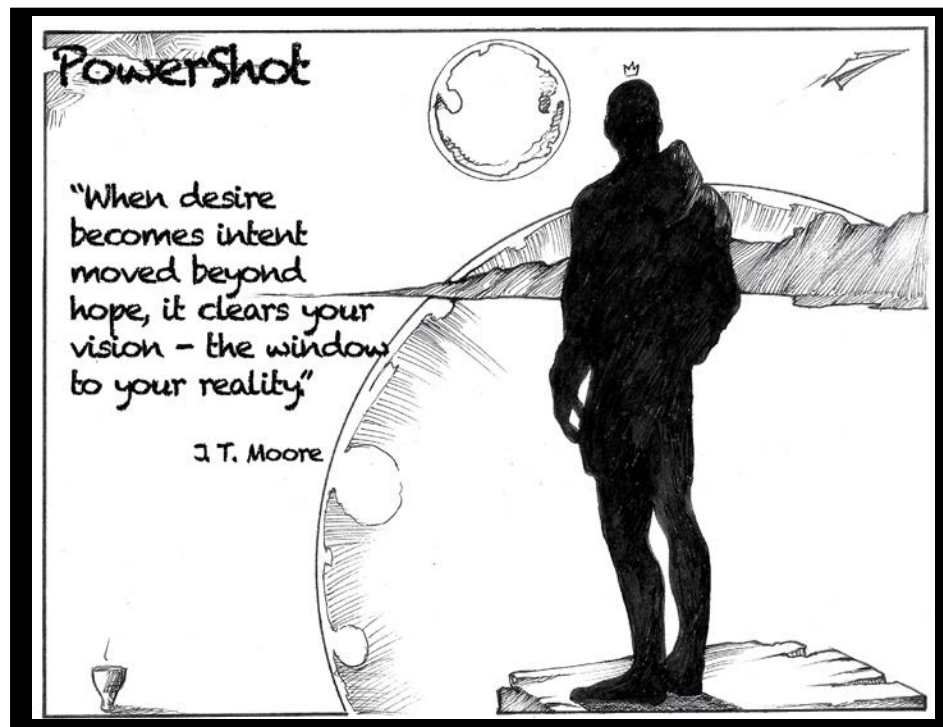
HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**April 24-May 20**

"The Bias Inside Us"

Host: City of Huntsville  
HudsonAlpha Institutesity  
10 a.m.**April 28**"Murder at the Speak-  
easy"5533 Alabama 53 - \$25  
Harvest, Ala.  
7:30-10:30 p.m.**May 5***Spring Commencement 1*  
(Graduate Students)Speaker: Mac McCutcheon  
Madison County Com-  
mission  
The Event Center  
9 a.m.**April 29**Trojans WingFest 2023  
Hazel Green High School  
14380 Highway 231/431  
N  
Hazel Green, Ala.  
2 p.m.148th Founder's Day  
Luncheon  
Ernest Knight Reception  
Center  
1:30-3 p.m.2023 Rose Ball  
Stovehouse3414 Governors Drive SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7-11:30 p.m.*Spring Commencement 2*  
(Undergraduates)Speaker: Rep. Laura Hall  
State of Alabama  
District 19  
The Event Center  
5 p.m.**April 30**"Glorilla"  
Open Mic  
Text GLO (205) 521-2270  
General Admission \$15  
The Garden of Huntsville  
3208 Long Avenue  
Huntsville, Ala.LUXE Cinco de Mayo  
Party Bus Bar Crawl  
7 p.m.-12 a.m.**May 4-7**The Golden Class of 1973  
Alabama A&M Univer-  
sity  
Check-In: Embassy-May 4  
3-7 p.m.Comedian  
Lewis Black  
"Off the Rails"  
Von Braun Center  
8 p.m.**April 26**Back 2 Basics, Online  
Gardening and Land-  
scaping Series  
Alabama Extension at  
Alabama A&M Univer-**May 6**  
AAMU Alumni Associa-  
tion Award & Scholarship  
Luncheon  
Ernest Knight Reception  
CenterOld Skool Games LLC @  
Game Jam South  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.

12 noon

PorchFest Five Points  
Dancing in the Street!  
Five Points Historic Dis-  
trict  
5p.m.**May 7**Memorial Walk  
St. John AME Church  
Worship Service  
Downtown Huntsville  
9:30 a.m.**May 9**TARCOG's  
24th Retirement Lifestyle  
Expo and Senior FunFest  
Presented by Stephanie  
Kirk  
Jaycee Community Build-  
ing  
9 a.m.-2 p.m.**May 13**Camp to Amp Festival  
2023  
MidCity District  
Huntsville, Ala**May 19**Food Truck & Trailer Ral-  
lies  
Big Spring Park  
5 p.m.**Cody Jinks**The Orion Amphitheater  
Online  
5 p.m.**May 20**Rocket City BBQ & Soul  
Fest  
6001 Pulaski Pike NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
10 a.m.-11 p.m.**June 9**8th Annual Black Restau-  
rant Week  
Huntsville 2023**June 9-11**Huntsvegas Tattoo Expo  
Von Braun Center

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*"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read."*

- James Baldwin



## In the Groove ...

*In the groove ...*

The day has started, whether you woke up happy or indifferent. The first encounter of the day poses a challenge, maybe something you have done repeatedly and should have the hang of by now. However, it feels a bit off today. You say, "Oh crap, here we go," or whatever you say in frustration (no judgment). You pause.

Don't quit. Start again, and you'll return to groove in a few minutes! See, the devil will tempt you to see if you will bow out or bend. He will test your faith in yourself, especially in God. He will have you believe, at that moment, you should stop, or it won't work out for you. That tiny, mustard seed faith allows you to tell him, "No hoss, I've got this. We've (God and I) got this! I'm not wavering now." This makes him back off and moves on to the next weakened soul. Just that one shifting of mindset puts you back in the groove! The mind is powerful!

Let's not move through life allowing that "musty

## Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

devil" to take over our thoughts, throw us off-kilter, and kill our groove.

Syncopation in music creates tension, stimulating the brain and creating a form of pleasure. The unknown. The unexpected.

But in life, we don't handle that quite as well. Interestingly enough, the more "off-kilter" a song is, the more you feel you are in the groove once you've understood its pattern (after it's been played repeatedly) in some control.



So, take life the same way. Once you realize it's going to throw you some things that are not expected, learn to appreciate

them and get used to being comfortable and uncomfortable. Take life easy. Take God with you every step of the way!

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**"Religion  
is best  
practiced  
out of doors."**

- Randall Robinson

Perspectives on  
**God Views  
+  
Current News**  
by tim allston

### Graduate from Your "Ellis Island" to Your "Statue of Liberty"

*And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."*

- Genesis 32:28

After Jacob wrestled all night with both God and against his past self-ishness, God renamed him "Israel"; his descendants and country still bear this name.

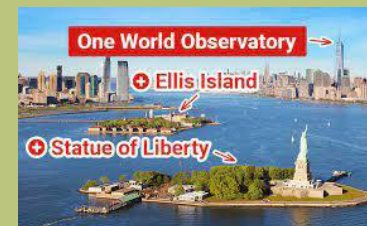
Jacob prevailed because he graduated from failing self-confidence to embracing his new "God-confidence."

Immigrants graduating from Ellis Island to the Statue of Liberty illustrated this transition.

National Ellis Island Family History Day commemorates April 17, 1907, when a record 11,747 immigrants were processed through that New York Harbor port of disembarkation, located near the Statue of Liberty.

From 1892 to 1924, Ellis Island became the first step for some 12 million immigrants to become U.S. citizens; yet, Lady Liberty represented their ultimate goal of American freedom.

Similarly, your and my quests for true freedom begin by pursuing self-confidence, but that first step must soon graduate to acquiring total dependence on God, "God-confidence."



Again, back to New York Harbor, . . .

For these new U.S. arrivals, Ellis Island was just their first milepost en route to more permanent American destinations.

Ellis Island was not where for example they could plant gardens, hang curtains, or family mementos. Why? This was simply their first step in pursuing their ultimate goal of freedom, symbolized by Lady Liberty.

Likewise, when you and I pursue anything beginning with "self" - e.g., self-esteem, self-worth, or self-confidence - it represents a necessary first step. Unfortunately, too many of us get comfortable and are stuck indefinitely as its hostages.

Ellis Island alumni such as comedian Bob Hope, Albert Einstein, and Harlem Renaissance writer Claude McKay didn't get stuck there; instead, they used that first step as their springboard to American freedom and success.

Neither you nor I need to remain on dead-end streets beginning with the word "self."

Yes, let's begin now at our "Ellis Islands of self," but then let's graduate to our "Lady Liberties of God-confidence."



Tim Allston  
Leadership Coach & Three-time  
Amazon Best-Selling Author  
Leading from the Middle  
leadingfromthemiddle@gmail.com





## AAMU Hosts First-Ever CTF

The College Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences at Alabama A&M University recently hosted its first on-campus capture the flag (CTF) event, sponsored by Sandia National Labs.

Students from Columbia High School and AAMU's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department (both undergraduates and graduates) competed in Sandia National Labs Tracer FIRE. The Tracer FIRE event is a two-day event teaching students to investigate multiple advanced persistent threat (APT) adversaries in a simulated incident response scenario.

During this event, students learn digital forensic skills to: identify the



adversary; determine how they get in; find out what did they want; if they succeed; and identify ways to prevent recurring incidents.

The students at AAMU competed against Auburn University, which also had teams from Tuskegee University and Alabama State University. The students received hands-on training for the start of Day 1 and by

late afternoon the students began the actual competition. Throughout the competition, the teams had on-site mentors from Sandia National Labs to assist them through the challenges.

In addition to getting hands-on training and mentorship, the top three teams at AAMU took home a combined total of \$2,000 in cash prizes.

## This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday  
of Easter

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

Second Lesson:

1 Peter 2:19-25

GOSPEL:

John 10:1-10

## THE VALLEY WEEKLY ALL FOR THE FAMILY Making a Financial Plan

### Building a Financial Emergency Plan

An emergency financial plan can create a financial buffer that can keep you afloat in a time of need without having to rely on credit cards or high interest loans.

1. *What is an Emergency Fund?* It is a cash reserve that you can use to pay unexpected expenses or financial emergencies, such as car repairs, property damage, unemployment, medical expenses/equipment or family emergencies.

2. *How Much Should You Save?* The size of your savings will vary depending on your lifestyle, monthly expenses and income. The

rule of thumb is to save at least enough to pay three - six months' worth of expenses. Don't be discouraged about

the amount; the goal is to save a small amount weekly, bi-weekly or monthly to reach your goal. Start with an amount that is comfortable for you to make monthly.

3. *Make a Budget.* This will enable you to identify all sources of income and expenses so you can distribute your income more efficiently, as well as determine where you can start saving by reducing or deleting unnecessary expenses.

4. *Where to Put Your Emergency Fund?* The best place is in a high-yielding savings account or money market fund. Shop around for the best rates and incen-



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

tives. Credit unions, banks and online banks are great places to begin researching.

5. *Celebrate Your Successes.* If you are consistently contributing to your Emergency Fund, identify little ways to celebrate your success each month.

### Sources:

- Huntsville Alumnae Newsletter, Economic Development Tips  
- nerdwallet.com



### Good Evening!!

I am so happy to announce that my courses at J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College are complete and I will be graduating in May 2023. My goal within the next 3 months is to save up for my Alabama State Board Exam so that I can be licensed cosmetologist.

I am so thankful for the help of the Rosetta James Foundation and the generosity extended to me via the scholarship.

If there's any way I can be of service to the foundation in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Katrina Jervis



### Ms. Huston:

*Thanks for publishing the article about Clyde Foster, and my efforts to celebrate his legacy.*

*Mr. Foster's legacy is a great American story of a life lived in service to humanity. Jerome Saintjones is commended for his ability to tell a compelling story, by committing his thoughts to writing.*

*The Valley Weekly sets a standard in reporting the news that matters to the African American community, in a professional and positive manner.*

*We appreciate and value your service to North Alabama.*

Regards,  
Juanita S. Lee

# ACCOLADES

from Our Readers





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

# Mrs. Sarah Drake

Mrs. Sarah Jean Luster Drake has nearly 50 years of achievement in developing productive, student-focused environments to maximize learning experiences from two and one-half years of age to post-secondary adults.

Mrs. Drake was born on February 26, 1946, to James and Annie Luster in Columbus, Miss. She is the youngest of five children.

She graduated from Alabama A&M University (AAMU) with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and special education. She earned the master's degree in special education/mental retardation and a certificate in psychometrics. Drake began teaching in 1968 as an educator of physically and mentally challenged students in Decatur City Schools.

In December of 1972, she married the late Mr. Cornell Franklin Drake. This union produced two children, Krynica LaShay and Kyas LaTron, and two grandchildren, Sarah LilyAnn and Melani Miracle.

She transitioned from teaching young students to focusing on educating college students from 1976 to 1993 at Alabama A&M University as an assistant professor for special education and elementary education. While at AAMU, she also served as coordinator of student teach-

ers within the mental retardation department and supervised in-service teachers.

In 1993, she left AAMU to continue developing young minds as the school administrator at First Missionary Baptist Church Child Development Center and Academy (FMBC-CDCA). During her 14-year tenure, FMBC-CDCA saw growth in all classes from ages 2.5 years to 5th grade. In 2007, Mrs. Drake served as a Program Assistant for the North Alabama Skills Center. Mrs. Drake began serving in 2009 as the program director of the After School & Summer Enrichment Program at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church. She formally retired in 2018.

Currently, Mrs. Drake volunteers tutoring students in reading and mathematics in Huntsville City and Madison County Schools. She works throughout the community in several orga-



nizations.

She is a member of the Council for Exceptional Children, National Education Association, Alabama Education Association and countless other organizations.

She has faithfully served her church, First Missionary Baptist Church, for over 45 years. She continues to be an active member of the Adult Choir, Congregational Care Layminister, teacher of Orientation Class for New Members, Day Spring Missionary Circle & Missionary Society Children's Bible Study. She is also a member of the Angel Tree Ministry, Prayer Ministry and Witnessing Team.

"2023 Sponsors" 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](http://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](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



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## Huntsville's 19th Century Black History Telling Our Stories

Ollye B. Conley  
Researcher

The Circle of Remembrance



# United States Colored Troops



### U. S. C. T.

The Bureau of the United States War Department created the Bureau of the Colored Troops in May of 1863. They began to organize the African Americans into regimental units which consisted of free blacks and enslaved people. The regiments were cavalry, artillery and infantry. Approximately 180,000 served during the Civil War. The following are veterans from Huntsville and Madison, Alabama.

**Andy Sledge** was born in Huntsville, Alabama in 1839 to Isaac and Cinthia Sledge. On September 3, 1864, he enlisted in United States Army as a member of Company C of the 40th United States Colored Infantry and eventually earned the rank of corporal. In 1867, he exercised his constitutional right by registering to vote. He married Carrie Winter in 1870 and lived on the east side of Madison Street. Andy died December 24, 1902 and is buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Richmond Davis** was

born in Alabama in 1844 to Robert and Caroline Davis. He enlisted in the U. S. Army as a member of Company G. 110 United States Colored Infantry. He registered to vote in Alabama in 1867. Richmond married Margaret Davis in 1882 and together they had a daughter named Charity Davis. Richmond died February 5, 1912 and is buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Washington Markin** was born in 1844. On October 27, 1863, he enlisted in the 13th Regiment, Company H of the United States Colored Infantry, and was discharged January 10, 1866. Private Markin is listed on the African American War Memorial. He died on July 4, 1911 and is buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Squire or Esquire Taylor** was born in Alabama in 1841. He enlisted in Company H of the 125th United States Colored Infantry. He and his wife Lydia had seven children; Monroe, Lee, Charly, Percy, May Fany, Squire and Pea Taylor. Private Squire

Taylor died July 6, 1923 and is buried in historic Glenwood Cemetery.

**Mordecai Steele** enlisted in Company H of the 15th Regiment of the United States Colored Infantry. He was an active member of the Old Soldiers Union, designed to assist veterans of the Civil War. He is also listed on the African American Memorial. His wife was Susan Steele.

**Major Driscoll** was born about 1842 in Madison, Alabama to Terry and Margaret Driscoll. According to the Freedman's Bank records, they were enslaved on the Parson Turner Plantation. He enlisted with Company I of the 15th Regiment of the United States Colored Infantry.

**Peter Sawyer** was born in Williamson County, Tennessee in 1845. His parents, Moses and Mary Sawyer were enslaved on Dr. Fearn's plantation. Peter enlisted in Company B of the 44th United Colored Infantry. Corporal Sawyer was married to Caldonia Sawyer and is buried in Glenwood Cemetery.



## ON THIS DAY

American author **Harper Lee** ("To Kill a Mockingbird") was born in Monroeville, Alabama, on April 28, 1926.



### 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.

"Shoot all the bluejays you want ... but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

- Harper Lee

### NAAACC Meetings

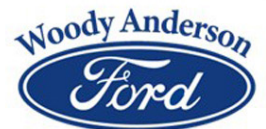
The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

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



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