

Preparing for Workplace Returns, p. 8

The Triumph of Faith, p. 5

FREE



Friday
May 21, 2021
Vol. 7, No. 37
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Col. (Ret.) James O. Heyward

"Art hurts. Art urges voyages - and it is easier to stay at home." - Gwendolyn Brooks

Local Activist Honored

On April 22-24, the Huntsville Chapter of National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc., hosted the annual national meeting virtually, celebrating 46 years of sisterhood.

On Saturday, April 24, the annual Fannie Lou Hamer banquet was held. Each year recognition is given to a female who emulates the ideals of our "SHERO," the late activist Fannie Lou Hamer. The Huntsville Chapter selected as this year's recipient Beulah Ballard Toney, who was recognized and presented with a plaque for over 50 years as an activists in the areas of voter

registration, participating in sit-ins to enhance desegregation, and marching along side such notables as former Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, as well as the late John Lewis during enactment of "Bloody Sunday" the crossing of the

Edmund Pettus Bridge from Selma to Montgomery. Toney continues to contribute to the cause daily. She was the first African-American to serve as chair of the Madison County Board of Registrars. Dr. Lona C. Bibbs serves as national president and Eleanor W. Burks is president of the Huntsville Chapter.



CAFY Gets Award

Renasant Bank Market President Danny Davis (left) presented the founders of Community Awareness for Youth (CAFY) a check for \$3,500 for this year's CAFY event. He presented the check to CAFY founders Dr. Harry Hobbs, vice president, employee engagement, Huntsville Utilities (accepting the check), and his wife, Mrs. Erica Hobbs. This year's annual CAFY event will be held Saturday July 24, 9-11 a.m. on the Huntsville Calhoun Community College campus. CAFY promotes awareness of the following Four Pillars of Success: health, education, careers and finances. Contact Kenneth Anderson at (256) 883-3993.

Drive-in Fest Scheduled for MidCity

Southern Fried Film Festival is hosting its 3rd film festival on June 11-12 at MidCity. Gates open at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

"Last year as we were preparing for the 2020 festival, we had to shut down the office. We were lucky to be able to pivot, and host a drive-in festival in August at MidCity. We decided to bring the festival again drive-in style as we emerge from this pandemic," said Trevite Willis, co-founder of the Southern Fried Film Festival. "Movies have been a major leisure activity during quarantine, and we saw how the drive-in offered a sense of community safely but also a fun, nostalgic way to experience cinema. We are excited to host the festival drive-in

style again."

The Festival will kick off on Friday, June 11 at MidCity beginning at 6pm, with host comedian Akshay Ahuja, a live remote from WEUP, and a musical performance from Huntsville native Victoria Jones. At sundown, we will have a series of short films preceding the documentary film, WOMAN IN MOTION, chronicling Nichelle Nichols' daunting task to launch a national blitz for NASA, recruiting 8,000 of the nation's best and brightest, including the trailblazing astronauts who became the first Black, Asian and Latino men and women to fly in space.

The Festival will continue on Saturday, June 12, at MidCity beginning at 6 p.m, with



host comedian Akshay Ahuja and a magical night with live music, raffles, and refreshments in an event that's fun for the whole family.

The Festival is being sponsored by Progress Bank and The Little Green Store.

Madison Officials Set for Delta Panel

In its efforts to provide an opportunity for citizens to engage with our elected officials, the Social Action Committee of the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is hosting Crimson and Cream Conversations with our Elected Officials

During this event, Councilwoman Ranae Bartlett and Councilwoman Connie Spears will share their vision, platform and achievements in

the City of Madison (AL). All concerned citizens will have the opportunity to engage with our elected officials to share their hopes and expectations for their community and elected officials.

Join the conversation on Thursday, May 20, from 7-8 p.m. virtually via Zoom. Register at the chapter's website <http://www.dsthuntsville.org/events>. After registering, persons will receive a

confirmation e-mail. The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., chartered in 1954 has a rich legacy of providing service throughout the entire county of Madison. The chapter strives to provide quality programs to educate youth, steer economic development within the community and be at the forefront of social action. Ovetta Hobson currently serves as president.

The Valley Weekly

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Local Choral Music Legend Observes 99th Birthday

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A woman who is revered around the country for her joint role (with her husband) in choral music has celebrated a major milestone.

Nell Lane Bradford and her late husband, Rev. Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., were a dynamic musical duo within the music program at Alabama A&M University for over 40 years. Mrs. Bradford recently observed her 99th birthday.

Mrs. Bradford was born in Sand Springs, Okla., as the second child of the late William Lane and Nellie Burris Lane. She spent most of her life in Gary, Indiana, where she received her basic education in the public schools and graduated from the historic Roosevelt High School.

She holds the Bachelor of Music degree in voice from the Sherwood Music School in Chicago, Illinois, as well as a certificate in piano and piano pedagogy. She was a piano student of concert pianist Sidney Silber, who was a protégé of the world-famous Austrian pianist, Theodor Leschetitzky.

Mrs. Bradford earned the Master of Music degree from the famous Oberlin

Conservatory of Music at Oberlin College in Ohio. She had done additional study with Madeline Marshall (a specialist in English diction) and with Maxine

music critics as one of the greatest choral conductors in the world.

Her professional teaching experiences include assignments in the public school

time to teach music in the laboratory high school of Alabama A&M Institute.

From those days, many colleagues remember her faculty ensembles, and former high school students still remember her production of operettas. She left Huntsville but later returned after marriage.

As a long-time citizen in the Huntsville-Madison County community Mrs. Bradford surely has been generous with her tal-

ent and with sharing the academic preparation that God has provided. She is credited with being responsible for the inception and format of what is now called the Annual Christmas Musicales at Alabama A&M University.

She has been and is active in several organizations, including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is the mother of Andrea Diane Bradford and Dr. Henry Lane Bradford.



Lagerstrom of Chicago Musical College. She also has studied at Oakland University in Michigan under the oversight of Robert Shaw, who is respected by many

system of Edwardsville, Illinois; in Baltimore, Maryland; and at Leland College in Baker, Louisiana.

She came to Huntsville in the forties for the first



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Private funeral service for THE REVEREND DR. WILLIE T. BROWN (b. 1929) will be Friday, May 21. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Virtual Omega Homegoing Ceremony: TBD.

Graveside service for MR. LAWRENCE E. DAVIS, III (b. 1954) was held Saturday, May 8, at Northside Cemetery with Pastor Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service for THE REVEREND MARCELL JOHNSON (b. 1948) was held Saturday, May 8, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with The Reverend Tiwirai Kufarimai officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Graveside service for MRS. ETHEL MAE PICKETT (b. 1936) was held Sunday, May 16, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road Toney, Ala.) with Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. DOROTHY MAE SANDERSON (b. 1938) was held Saturday, May 15, at Triana Cemetery (4th Street, Triana, Ala.) with Pastor Tiwirai Kufarimai eulogist.

Funeral service for MRS. FRAQUENCLYN GAIL WOODS (b. 1952) was held Friday, May 14, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church (1919 Brandontown Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Joe Stevenson officiating.

Graveside service for MOTHER GLENDA ANN PARKS ROBINSON (b. 1949) was held Thursday, May 13, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, AL 35773) with Pastor Endia J. Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. CEDAREE CRUTCHER LOCKHART (b. 1948) was held Wednesday, May 12, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Reverend Ernest Williams officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral Service for MR. MACK GRIZZARD, JR., MRS. PATRICIA ANN GRAY (b. 1963), MR. NATHAN DEAN (b. 1942), MS. SHELIA HOWARD (b. 1967) and MR. CHRISTOPHER FRYER (b. 1999) will be announced at a later date.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

“DOES JESUS LIVE AT YOUR HOUSE?”

Matthew 7:25 says, “The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

There was a story about a man that came home at the end of his work day and his wife said to him, “You know, the new Pastor came to our home today and he asked me a question that I couldn’t answer.” “What did he ask,” the husband said. “He asked me, ‘Does Jesus live here?’” “And what

did you say?” the husband inquired. She said, “I didn’t know what to say.” Then the husband said, “Well, why didn’t you tell him that we are respectable people and that we go to church occasionally and that we read our bibles sometimes.” She said, “I could have, but he didn’t ask me any of those questions. He asked me, ‘Does Jesus live at our house?’”

When we look at our own lives, how would you answer this question? It’s a simple question, but it can become complex if you don’t know the answer. It’s important that the presence of Jesus lives in our

homes. As we see here in this scripture a home whose foundation is built on the rock, which is Jesus, can weather any storm that comes in your life. When Jesus comes and lives in your home, I believe that He brings 3 things with Him.

The first thing he brings is healing. You see, many illnesses can divide a home. But the house will not fall if it’s foundation is built on the rock. The next thing He brings is hope. Sometimes you never know how bad the storm will be. The rain may come down, the streams may rise. But when our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and His righteousness, we will overcome any storm.



And, finally, Jesus brings happiness to your home. How do you know that Jesus lives in your home? Because love, joy, peace and happiness all live in your house. Happiness is the evidence that Jesus lives there.

Today, If you haven’t already, why don’t you invite Jesus into your home, because it can be the difference between a house that is built on sand and a house built on the rock ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters ... and don’t forget that you can purchase my book, “A Champion Game Plan For Life,” on amazon.com <<http://amazon.com/>>



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Huntsville City Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council Regular Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m., Downtown Huntsville.

Watch the meetings live via HuntsvilleAL.gov/ HSVTV or on the City of Huntsville Facebook page (@huntsvillecity).

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

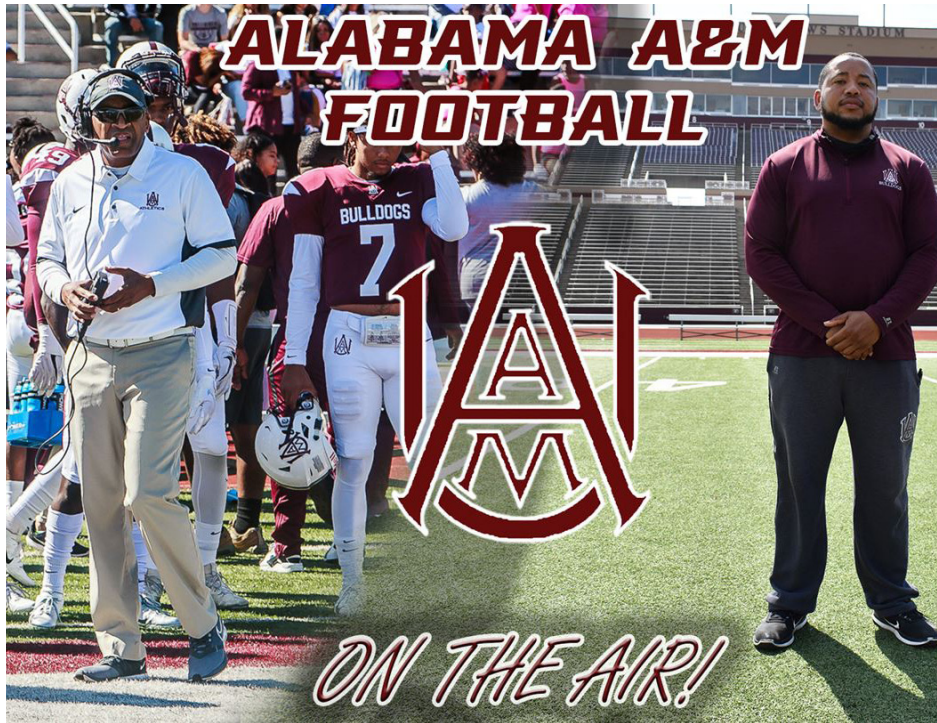
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AAMU Football Coach, Offensive Coordinator Make Rounds on the Airwaves



Coming off of perhaps the greatest season in program history, head football coach Connell Maynor and offensive coordinator Duane Taylor have been in demand in the media, with both sharing their thoughts on the unique Spring 2021 season within the past week.

Maynor went One-on-One with BOXTOROW host Donal Ware on Tuesday, May 11, talking

about the path to a national championship and his career as one of the top coaches and players in the ranks of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) among a wide array of topics in a 17-minute conversation.

Taylor, meanwhile, connected with Yardball for nearly an hour last week, a podcast dedicated to covering all that is Southwestern Athletic Confer-

ence (SWAC) football. He discussed the season, the development of senior quarterback Aqeel Glass (St. Louis, Mo.), the concept of "separation in the preparation" and what his pregame playlist sounds like.

- Joshua Darling, SID

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The Valley Weekly
Each Week!**

Votes for Women Trail Market Dedication

A National Votes for Women Trail Marker unveiling will be held Friday, June 4, at 2 p.m. at the corner of Bank Street and Vine Street in Decatur, Ala. The City of Decatur, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, the Alabama

Women's Suffrage Centennial Committee, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, and local historian Ms. Peggy Towns will proudly dedicate the marker.

This marker is provided in recognition of Deca-

tur's role in history as the site for the first Women's Suffrage Club in the State of Alabama and to honor the women of the suffrage movement.

For questions or more information, please call or text (256) 203-6827.

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- Audre Lorde

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Assistance Fund

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gov

(800) 659-2955

COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department of Labor

(866) 234-5382

labor.alabama.gov

MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(256) 539-3711

LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health

Health

www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

cdc.gov

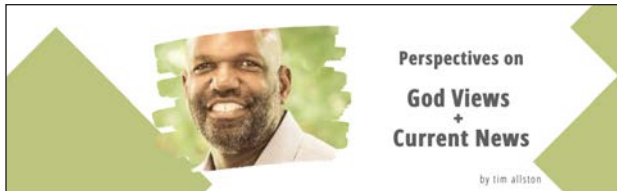
TAKEOUT/DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

[https://hsvchamber.org/](https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/)

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providers/



Defrocked Ms. Liz Cheney: The GOP's Inconvenient Truth-Teller or "Frenemy"?

"Because of Me, naysayers and doubters will try to make an example out of you by trying you before governors and kings. When this happens - when you are arrested, dragged into court - don't worry about what to say or how to say it. The words you should speak will be given to you. For at that moment, it will not be you speaking, it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you" - Matthew 10:18-20.

Jesus' 13th Disciple?

Jesus was preparing his 12 disciples to represent him before top leaders, by speaking inconvenient truths.

Perhaps his "13th disciple" is Congresswoman Liz Cheney (R-WY). Like disciple Simon Peter, Cheney's a right-wing zealot yet an inconvenient truth-teller.

On May 12, GOPs ousted Cheney as Republican Conference Chairwoman - a silver-mettle "leading from the middle" post. Although never refuted, she was defrocked for speaking inconvenient truths against the Big Lie.



Ms. Cheney proved that inconvenient truth-telling separates the wheat from the chaff. Specifically, her fellow "GOP Impeachment 10" who also voted to impeach Trump (wheat) challenged the remaining pro-Trump Republicans (chaff).

Here, Ms. Cheney followed Biblical best practices.

Matthew 5:44: "Love Your Enemies."

Jesus commands us to love our enemies. Responding to our enemies offers them another viewpoint and sharpens both outlooks. "I will not sit back and watch in silence while others lead our party down a path that abandons the rule of law and joins the former President's crusade to undermine our democracy," Cheney stated on May 11.

On May 10, Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) tweeted, "Expelling Liz Cheney from leadership won't gain the GOP one additional voter, but it will cost us quite a few."

Who is the inconvenient truth-teller in your group - in your family, social buddies or workplace? Whose inconvenient truths ruffle feathers, but bring needed balance?

Hopefully, that truth-teller is you.

tim allston is the author of U.S. Politics The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders (now on Amazon), and the author-narrator of The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the Rise of the "Silver-Mettle" Leaders audiobook, with a free sample chapter, when you click on <https://bit.ly/3xiZhP9>.

Local Businessman Doubles Scholarship

Mariah Mathis is a young lady who is on the move!

The daughter of David and Rosalyn Clark Mathis, she has been a stellar student throughout her high school career at Grissom, as an honor student, a member of the Grissom Dance Showcase and the Grissom Marching Band. She will be attending The University of Alabama in the fall, where she received a scholarship to go along with many other scholastic awards for her academic achievement and volunteer work in the Huntsville community.

One of those scholarships was presented by The Rosetta James Foundation, which grants cash awards to deserving students in the Huntsville and Madison County community on an annual basis.



Mariah's sponsor for that scholarship was so impressed and enthralled with her good works that following the initial \$1,000 award, she was presented with an additional \$2,000!

"It's all about paying it forward," the sponsor said, referencing an experience from his days as a student himself, when he was presented with an instrument

from an "upperclassman," that was very important to his studies of his chosen career path. The sponsor wanted to remain anonymous, as not to "toot their own horn," so to speak.

"She is going to do some great things, and I wanted to contribute to that in some small way if possible," the sponsor told *The Valley Weekly*. Mariah is a great example to her peers who will make her family and her "village" very proud. The generosity of her sponsor, along with all the other organizations who granted Ms. Mathis scholarship cash awards are what make Huntsville the amazing city that it is.

Best of luck at The University of Alabama, Mariah! We are all cheering for you!

by Robert Drake



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CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

The Tragedy of Fear and Triumph of Faith

Genesis 19:30-38;
Matthew 1:5

Fear causes delay, which causes a lack of development, that eventu-

ally leads to desperation, that tragically leads to a damaged destiny. This was the lot of Lot (pun intended), and his daughters. His daughters being fearful of



not ever being blessed with husbands came up with a scheme to get their father drunk, too drunk in fact

to recognize them and engaged in an incestuous relationship with him. It was from this union that the nations of Moab and the Ammonites were formed. It was these two nations that hired Balaam to curse Israel and keep them out of the Promised Land.

That is the *tragedy of fear*. The Promised Land

represents the destiny that God desires and destines for all of those who belong to Him. If we make choices out of fear, desperation can set in and cause literal and figurative Moabites and Ammonites to become a part of our legacy. However, in the genealogy of Jesus, we find Ruth who was a Moabite who through her *triumph of faith* and devotion, changed her destiny by providentially placing her in the eyesight of Boaz, her kinsman redeemer, and the rest as they say, is history (His Story). She went from being a gleaner in his field, to being his wife



and landing in the Book as an ancestor of Jesus, our Kinsman Redeemer. This is proof that God can redeem anyone from a damaged destiny.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru May 23

“Encounters”
Althea Murphy Price
Huntsville Museum of Art
hsvmuseum.org

Thru July 4

Exhibit
“Tell Their Story: Remembering the Scottsboro Boys”
Sponsors:
Burritt on the Mountain,
Francis Tate with CEOTA,
John Allison and the
Morgan County Archives,
and The Scottsboro Boys
Museum Scottsboro, Ala.
The Burritt Museum

May 19

Dedication of Historic
Markers Honoring Huntsville Women
Sponsor:
League of Women Voters
of the Tennessee Valley
YMCA Building
203 Greene Street
Huntsville, Ala.
1 p.m.

May 20

Virtual Groundbreaking
Alabama A&M University
Welcome Center
Corner of Meridian and
Chase

May 21

Hill Technical Solutions
Charity Golf Tournament
Cherokee Ridge Country
Club
charities@hilltechnicalso-
lutions.com
(256) 970-1258
7:30 a.m.

May 22

Disney on Ice
Von Braun Center
700 Monroe Street
Huntsville, Ala.

May 23

Sidetracks Music Hall
415 Church Street NW
Huntsville, Ala.
6-8 p.m.

May 27

Annual Black Tie Scholar-
ship Gala (Virtual)

www.aamu.edu/blacktie
7 p.m.

May 28

Downtown Huntsville
Acoustic Sounds
Honest Coffee Roasters
114 Clinton Avenue
Huntsville, Ala. - 10 a.m.

June 4

Second Pomeroy Dedic-
ation
Sponsor:
City of Decatur, the Ala-
bama Women's Suffrage
Centennial Committee and
the NCWHS
Decatur, Ala. - 2 p.m.

June 12

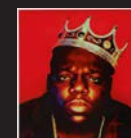
Comedian Anjelah Johnson
Stand Up Live
2012 Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, Ala.
6:30-11:30 p.m.

July 9

Reba McEntire
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
8 p.m.

MAY 21 - Born in New York, N.Y., The NOTORIUS B.I.G. was an American rapper, born the only child of Jamaican parents. He has certified sales of more than 17 million records in the United States, including 13.4 million albums.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com





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

Col. (Ret.) James O. Heyward

A native of Sumter, S.C., James O. Heyward, Sr., is a career Army officer who retired from active service in 1983 with the rank of Colonel. Col. (Ret.) Heyward served in key command and staff positions in the United States and overseas, amassing a diverse background of extensive experience in planning, management and operations to include training, logistics, resource management, counseling and investigative work. His last military assignment was Professor of Military Science at Alabama A&M University (AAMU).

Since his retirement, he held the position of Director of Admissions at AAMU from 1984 to 1997. In this position, he was responsible for directing and coordinating the University's recruitment effort and administering the academic scholarship program. He formulated, recommended and implemented recruitment and admissions policies—all crucial to a stable enrollment of quality students. During his work in higher education, he held key positions in the Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers on the state and national levels, and was affiliated with other professional educators organizations.

Heyward holds a B.S. degree from South Carolina State University and an M.A. from Shippensburg State University. He graduated

from the Armed Forces Staff College and the U.S. Army Personnel Management for Executives Program. In 1979, he was inducted into the South Carolina State University Army ROTC Hall of Fame. In 1996, he received the South Carolina State University Distinguished Alumni Award.

Heyward was also a former paratrooper and received numerous military awards and citations, including the Legion of Merit. Heyward remained active in community activities. He was a member and past president of the local graduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; member of Epsilon Kappa Boule, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; holds membership in the Royal College of Papal Knights in the Americas; former member of the Board of Directors of LIFT Housing; co-chair of the Huntsville Committee to design a Buffalo Soldiers Memorial; and chairman of the 1999 Huntsville Chief of Police Task Force on Recruiting and Hiring. Col. (Ret.) Heyward was a member of the Executive Board of the Greater Alabama Council, Boy Scouts of America, Birmingham; Assistant District Commissioner, Talakto District, immediate past president, Urban Emphasis Scout Leaders Council, Cubmaster Pack 906, West Mastin Lake Elementary School. He was



honored at the Eagles Scouts Reception in Huntsville February 2010 for increasing the participation of urban youth in the scouting program. In April 2011, The Greater Huntsville Chapter, Jack and Jill of America presented the Pink, White and Blue Award to Heyward for his involvement and untiring work with the Boy Scouts of America. In June 2011, he received the "Making a Difference Award" from The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Inc. In June 2011, Heyward was an honoree at the Boy Scouts of America, Talakto District Annual Eagle Luncheon in Huntsville. He was a member of the Steward Board and Secretary of Saint John A.M.E. Church, and he served as guest speaker for a number of local and state organizations.

Col. (Ret.) Heyward is married to the former Willie Mae Thompson, and they have two sons and two grandsons.



DRAKE BOUND!

The Rosetta James Foundation (RJF) awarded a scholarship on Saturday, May 15, to Cameron Chase Cole, who will be a computer and information science student at Drake State Community and Technical College in Fall 2021.

Pictured (l-r) are: Cameron Chase Cole, Drake State Community and Technical College student; Ms. Virginia Gilchrist, scholarship donor and RJF supporter; and Mary Vickers, Cameron's mother.

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"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.



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Putting Employee Safety First as Workplaces Reopen

(BPT) - Of all the milestones in our nation's COVID-19 recovery, workplaces reopening is one of the biggest. As millions of people start returning to offices, classrooms and more, the hope of progress is tempered by concerns for safety. Everyone deserves to feel safe at work. How can employers help make that happen?

The key is planning ahead, says Christopher Gill, vice president of EnviroPro Solutions. "Having enough supplies, the right equipment and clear information - all of these are important. They do more than just keep the workplace safe and sanitized. They help employees feel confident about returning."

Here are 5 easy steps employers can take to help build trust and stay safe.

Pick up plenty of PPE. The bare minimum should include disposable masks and hand sanitizer. Depending on the sanitizing steps your business is taking, gloves and goggles may also be necessary. Designate a clear responsible party who will be in charge of tracking supplies and re-ordering.

Post or share information on the supplies available, where employees can access them and who to report any shortages or concerns to.

Re-assess restrooms. Restrooms should always be well-stocked with soap, hot water and paper towels. Increase the frequency at which restrooms are checked for supplies and sanitized. This is even more important if your facility's restrooms are open to the public.

For large restrooms, consider closing off some stalls and sinks to limit the areas that require frequent sanitizing. Placing out-of-order signs can help deter use. Post clear instructions for handwashing - it should be done for at least 30 seconds with hot water and soap.

Scale back shared spaces. Shared spaces may mean break rooms, employee kitchens, copy rooms, lobbies, supply closets or more. If any of these spaces aren't strictly necessary, consider closing them off. This will discourage congregating and limit the areas that need frequent sanitization. For shared spaces that stay



open, limit furniture and supplies to the absolute essentials. This may mean reducing seating and tables, or removing communal dishware.

It's also vital to establish clear expectations for sanitizing shared spaces before and after every use. Prominently post and share sanitizing guidelines with all staff. Include information on where sanitizing equipment will be stored and how it can be accessed and used. To help ensure everyone follows guidelines, look for a sanitizing solution that's fast and easy-to-use, like electrostatic sprayers from enviropro-solutions.com, made by Victory or Graco.

Sick? Stay home. Whenever possible, encourage

employees to stay home or work from home if:

- * They are experiencing any symptoms of illness.
- * They suspect they may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- * They have just returned from traveling.
- * There have been any changes to their household,

such as a child returning from college.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provides guidelines for length of self-quarantines and more in their Guidance for Businesses & Employees page.

Provide proper equipment. Empowering employees is the best strategy for building trust. When it comes to sanitization, providing individual sanitizing tools is a terrific way to empower. Some companies offer kits to keep multiple employees in-stock at once, such as the Millennium Q Viral Disinfecting Kit. When every employee has their own set of supplies, they can take full responsibility for the safety of their workspace.

Even with shared workstations, having dedicated sets of sanitizing tools is highly effective. Post or share clear instructions on how to sanitize and the necessary frequency. Particularly for shared workstations, it's advisable for employees to sanitize before and after every shift.

After more than a year at home for some workers, returning to the workplace is an enormous step. Emotions may be running high, and it's up to employers to set a positive example and tone. Making your dedication to safety clear and tangible will boost employee confidence, all while keeping your workforce healthy.



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