

From the Rosa Parks Day Committee, p. 8

FREE

A&M Welcome Center, p. 5



Friday
May 28, 2021
Vol. 7, No. 38
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

The Valley Weekly

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



(Mrs.) Butch Kohler Damson

"Character, not circumstances, makes the man." - Booker T. Washington

Organizers Plan for Annual Vision Banquet

The annual Huntsville Bible College fundraising event known as the Vision Banquet will be held virtually. This year's celebration will honor the 35th Anniversary of Huntsville Bible College (HBC) and the 28th Annual Vision Banquet. Due to COVID restrictions, the Vision Banquet will be held virtually on Friday, June 4, at 7 p.m. via Facebook Huntsville Bible College; YouTube - Huntsville Bible College; or on the Huntsville Bible College website at www.hbc1.edu.

The funds from this event will be used to provide scholarships for students and to pay for operation costs of the Huntsville Bible College. This is the largest fund-raising activity of the year for the Huntsville Bible College.

The theme for this year is "Celebrating Lifetime Sponsors." The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Reginald Calvert of the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

HBC is a fully accredited college with strong academic programs and offers the following degrees: Certificate, Associates of Arts, Bachelor of Arts, Master of Ministry, and Doctor of Ministry.

To support the banquet this year persons may consider: Sponsorships, advertisement purchases, and donations which can be made from now through May 31, 2021.

Persons may make their donations via Visa/MasterCard/Debit by phone at (256) 469-7536 or by mail: HBC - 906 Oakwood Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35811. Persons may also make donations via CashApp at \$HBC1986; PayPal - HBC1986, or online at www.hbc1.edu.

For more information, contact the College at (256) 469-7536. Get involved and become a part of this great 28th Annual Vision Banquet anniversary celebration. Help spread the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Archives Holds Key to City's History

by Katie Stamps, HuntsvilleAL.gov

Have you ever wondered where you can learn about local history and have access to one-of-a-kind archival resources?

In addition to local and regional history items, the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCP) Special Collections Department offers a wide variety of services as well as trained archivists and librarians to assist with your research.

The City of Huntsville is celebrating Historic Preservation Month by bringing special attention to historic and culturally significant

places and tourist destinations that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether you're a Huntsville native or new to the area, HMCP Special Collections is a destination worth visiting.

The archives were formally established in 1976, housing rare, fragile and unique materials that had been part of the library since 1818.

Special Collections is located on the third floor of the downtown branch, opening at 9 a.m. Mon.-Sat.



Gallery Showcases Black Photographers

The Arts Huntsville Gallery at the Von Braun Center opened its new exhibit, "From the Onyx Lens" on Thursday, May 20. The exhibition showcases the work of Huntsville Black Photographers with over 40 photographic pieces the group believes will challenge the sensitivity of today's issues and captivate and excite thoughts in the viewer's mind.

"We are for the community and of the community," said Edward Glover, president of Huntsville Black Photographers (HSVBP), noting that through weekly meetups and annual photography challenges, the organization has grown while developing new young photographers, redefining unity and collectively serving the community. "We are so grateful to Arts Huntsville for providing us the opportunity to display our works and talents."

According to Arts Huntsville Arts Equity and Engagement Facilitator Patrice Johnson, who is also

a HSVBP group member, the exhibit artists have transferred their most sacred, inner feelings to photos that are sure to invoke ideas, sensations and emotions. The HSVBP group further added that the new exhibit is a way to escape the illusion of time and return to the unity of life. Through the process of creating and curating the exhibit, the group worked to find a merger between an object and a subject with the disappearance of distance.

"From the Onyx Lens" will be on display through August 31. The exhibit is located between the Mark C. Smith Concert Hall and the VBC Playhouse, and can be viewed at no charge during VBC hours seven days a week.

For more information on the gallery and other events, visit the Arts Huntsville website at www.artshuntsville.org. To learn more about HSVBP, please visit the Huntsville Black Photographers Facebook page.

The Valley Weekly

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Washington in One Minute



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

1. ON THE FLOOR. The Senate is in session this week, while the House has no scheduled floor votes until June 14 – although House committees will continue to meet this week. The Senate will resume consideration of a bipartisan bill to enhance America's technological competitiveness regarding China, the "Endless Frontier Act" sponsored by Sens. Schumer (D-NY) and Young (R-IN) and may also take up the \$2 billion FY21 supplemental appropriations bill to beef up security at the Capitol, which the House passed last week on a very close vote of 213-212. There has also been speculation in the press that the Senate could take up the January 6 Commission passed by the House last week.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. Last Friday, President Biden offered a new infrastructure proposal slimmed down from \$2.2 trillion to \$1.7 trillion to counter a Senate

GOP proposal of \$568 billion, which he would like to pay for by increasing the corporate tax rate from 21 to 28%. Leading infrastructure GOP Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) met with Transportation Secretary Buttigieg and Commerce Secretary Raimondo last Tuesday and floated the idea of using unspent federal unemployment benefits (which 21 states have ended) as a way to pay for the infrastructure bill. On Monday, President Biden received a briefing on the Atlantic hurricane outlook and preparedness efforts at FEMA headquarters at 1:30 p.m. On Tuesday, the President hosted a meeting with the family of George Floyd on the first anniversary of his death. On Thursday, the White House transmitted the President's full Fiscal Year 2022 Budget to Congress to officially start the FY2022 budget cycle and President Biden travelled to Cleveland to deliver remarks on the economy.

3. SUPREME COURT

REFORM COMMISSION. Last Wednesday, the 36-member Supreme Court Commission, created by the Biden Administration to study Supreme Court reform, met publicly for the first time. The commission, which consists of legal scholars, retired judges and practicing lawyers, is tasked with researching various reform ideas and submitting a report to the president – but it will not suggest that any particular measure be adopted or avoided. The five areas that the commission will study are: (1) the genesis of the reform debate, including why reforming the Supreme Court has been a debate throughout the nation's history and what factors contribute to the debate of late, (2) the court's role in our constitutional system, including debates about the scope of judicial review and the authority of the court to invalidate the acts of the other branches of government, (3) length of service and turnover of justices, (4) membership and size of the court, including proposals to expand the size of the court, and (5) the court's case-selection process, the shadow docket, and the court's interactions with the public.

4. BROADBAND ASSISTANCE. Federal Pell Grant recipients are now eligible for discounted broadband services under the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Emergency

Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program. Under the EBB Program, households with Pell Grant recipients are eligible to receive a discount of up to \$50 per month on broadband services and associated equipment, and eligible households located on Tribal lands can receive a discount of \$75 per month. Pell Grant recipients can apply for the benefit online, via mail, or through a participating service provider.

5. BIDEN POLL. A Hill/HarrisX poll of 1,889 registered voters from May 17-19 released last Friday shows President Biden maintaining a job approval rating of 60%, holding steady from an April

26-28 poll. The poll has a margin of error of + 2.25%. A separate Hill/HarrisX poll from May 14-15 found that 69% of registered voters said it is more important an infrastructure bill be passed with support from both Democrats and Republicans versus 31% who felt that it is more important that the legislation be passed as quickly as possible.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Graveside service for MR. STEPHON HUSSEY (b. 1984) was held Sunday, May 23, at Valley View Memorial Gardens with Pastor Mattie Gaines Williams officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. JULIANNE WHITE LACY (b. 1945) was held Saturday, May 22, at Northside Cemetery with the Reverend Dr. Mitchell M. Walker, Sr. officiating.

Funeral service for THE REVEREND DR. WILLIE T. BROWN (b. 1929) was held Friday, May 21, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens Chapel of Love with The Reverend Dr. Mitchell M. Walker and The Reverend Dr. John L. Clay officiating.

Graveside service for MS. TRACIE COLLIER (b. 1968) was held Saturday, May 15, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Pastor Sherry Birney officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Graveside service for MR. JAMES FRANKLIN LATHON (b. 1927) was held Sunday, May 23, at the Oakwood Memorial Gardens (1 HL Cleveland Way Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.

Funeral service for BISHOP ANTHONY L'DEREK HUGGINS (b. 1976) was held Saturday, May 22, at Swan House Event Center (3921 Winchester Road, New Market, Ala.) with Bishop Dexter Elston officiating.

Funeral service for MR. DONALD WAYNE ELLISON (b.1966) was held Saturday, May 22, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Thomas Little officiating.

Graveside service for MR. PALMER LAMB, JR. (b. 1957) was held Wednesday, May 19, at the Concord Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery (11727 US 280 E., Salem, Ala.) with Pastor Marshall Morgan 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), and MR. NATHAN DEAN (b. 1942) will be announced at a later date.

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

Plans to Prosper, Not to Harm
Hebrews 12:11 says, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Have you ever felt God's discipline in your life and tried to understand why? Why am I enduring these hard times in my life and why do I need discipline from God? These were some of the questions that I thought about while studying this scripture. So I thought back to my own life and

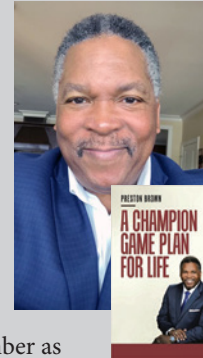
remembered the times that my father disciplined me.

It wasn't always because I did something wrong, but it was because he loved me enough and cared about me in such a way that I wouldn't do anything to harm myself or anyone else.

Today, I believe that we live in a time that lacks parental discipline. Now, the word discipline means the practice of training people to obey rules using punishment to correct disobedience. So, we as Christians not only need to understand the "nature" of God's discipline but

we also need to know how to respond properly to it. And, the first thing we need is a good attitude so we don't say things like God is mad at me or God doesn't like me. I can remember as a father, when I disciplined my own kids, I was never "mad" at them. I just wanted them to do well in life. Just like God, our heavenly Father wants all of us to "produce a harvest of righteousness and peace."

The next thing we need is a submissive spirit, which means ready to conform to God's authority. When God disciplines us, we need to realize that it is for our good, to bring out a good purpose for our lives. Jeremiah 29:11



says: For I know the plans that I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. You see God's discipline is directed to "benefit" the believer and because He is so good He would not discipline us if it were not going to produce something good out of it.

So, let us not lose heart when God is disciplining us, but let us celebrate the fact that God loves us and cares enough about us to see that we do well in all that we do ... Stay encourage,d my brothers and sisters. And, remember, you can purchase my book, "A Champion Game Plan For Life" at amazon.com.



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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mary.spears.cffc@statefarm.com



Alabama A&M University Holds Ground Breaking for New Welcome Center

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Meridian Street & Chase Road - Huntsville, Ala.



Trustees Break Ground



Welcome Center Rendering



Admissions Director
Dwayne Green



Supporting Agencies



State Representative Laura Hall



Board President Pro Tem Jerome B. Williams



Commissioner Violet Edwards



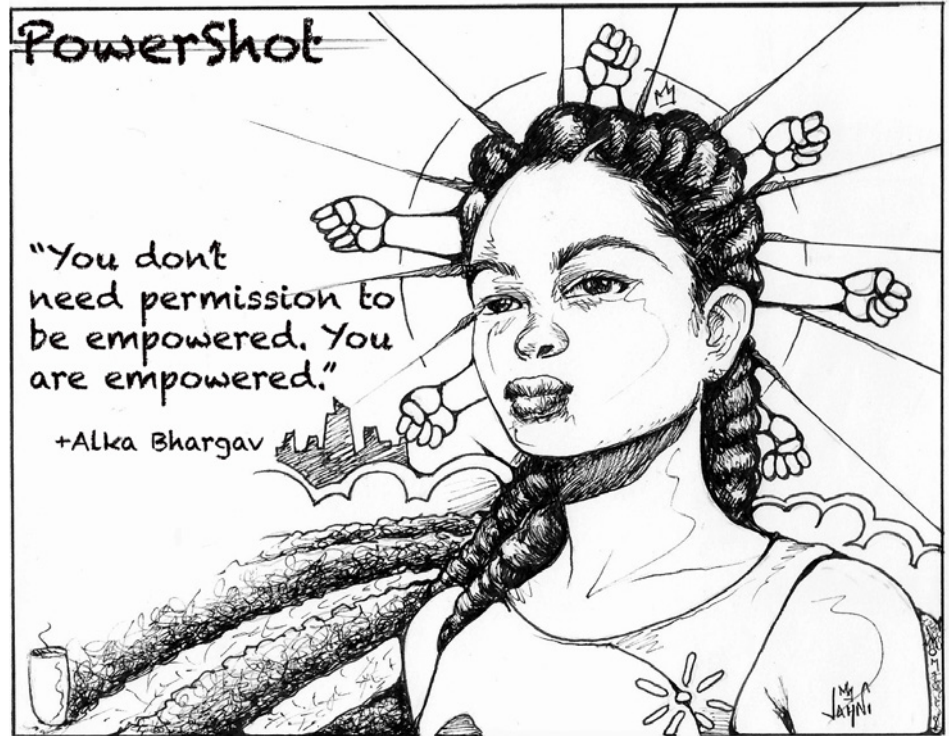
State Representative Anthony Daniels



Mary Jones Moore, Alumni Assoc. Pres.



Civil Engineering Alum Mark Nelson



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- Gloria Naylor

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gov

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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

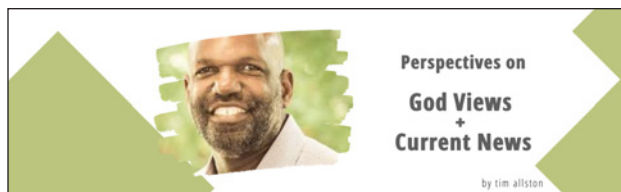
TAKEOUT/DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

<https://hsvchamber.org/>

restaurant-deliveries-

take-out-food-service-

providers/



Ongoing Lessons from 2020's COVID-19 Crisis

"... And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever." - Joshua 4:7.

Here, Joshua commanded a monument of 12 stones be erected to honor the Children of Israel's journey. They had traveled from 400-year Egyptian enslavement to now enter God's Promised Land, Canaan.

More importantly, the monument would remind future generations of the partnership between God's blessings and human sacrifices.

While the pandemic is not over, its crisis phase is nearing an end hopefully. Therefore, our reduced fatalities, hospitalizations, and social restrictions should teach us three important lessons:

Finish the Race - A Marathon, Not a Sprint

Too often, after pushing hard to achieve a goal, we see the finish line. But mistakenly we slow down, celebrate prematurely and lose sight of the true finish line.

Remember: It is the face-masking, six-foot social distancing, and 20-second hand washing that are inching us toward victory.

Biggest Defeats often follow Biggest Victories

Why do sports champions rarely repeat as champs? Most times, they simply fail to continue the practices that made them champions. And our leaders know this and warn us.

Both White House and medical science leaders are urging us to maintain where appropriate our COVID-19 safety protocols to avoid a pandemic relapse. And

C'mon, Alabama: Vaccinate to Liberate

Unfortunately at 35%, Alabama ranks 2nd-worst in fully-vaccinated citizens. And at 44%, we're 3rd-worst behind Mississippi and Louisiana with only one of two vaccinations.

Let's stay the course and finish the marathon race, y'all.

As you and I continue to persevere and do our part to beat COVID-19 our vaccinated arms - along with our "retired" face masks, social distancing, and 20-second hand washing - will become our monuments of stone for future generations.

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>.



Some STDs Are Becoming Untreatable

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced back in 2016 that the world is running out of ways to treat once easily-curable sexually transmitted infections, like syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea.

The outlook on these infections is the same and even more so today. The infection is reportedly becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics due to "misuse and overuse" of antibiotics, according to WHO.

The organization also released new guidelines for treatment of gonorrhea as well as chlamydia and syphilis, which are also becoming resistant to the drugs typically used to treat them.

Gonorrhea is a relatively common disease, infecting 78 million people each year. Anyone who is sexually ac-

tive can get gonorrhea, and the disease can spread like wildfire through unprotected sex.

Some infected people have no symptoms at all, while others may experience burning with urination, and a swarm of other genital affections. If untreated gonorrhea can occasionally spread to affect joints or heart valves.

Traditionally, treating gonorrhea has been easy with antibiotics. But resistance to antibiotics has grown dramatically in recent years. Strains of multidrug-resistant gonorrhea that do not respond to any available antibiotics have already been detected, the main cause for this being antibiotics overuse in trivial cases.

"Gonorrhea used to be susceptible to penicil-

lin, ampicillin, tetracycline and doxycycline — very commonly used drugs," said Jonathan Zenilman, who studies infectious diseases at Johns Hopkins. "But one by one, each of those antibiotics — and almost every new one that has come along since — eventually stopped working. One reason is that the bacterium that causes gonorrhea can mutate quickly to defend itself, Zenilman said.

In light of the drug resistance to gonorrhea, the new guidelines from the WHO advises that doctors treating gonorrhea patients cease to prescribe quinolones, a class of antibiotics previously effective in the treatment of gonorrhea. Now, doctors are advised to use cephalosporins, a different class of antibiotics.

- BlackDoctor.org

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Four Corners Ministry

Luke 5:17-20; Mark 2:3

everyone in the Body of Christ is responsible for some form of *ministry* which at its core is helping people get to Jesus. There are times when that

Ministry is often misunderstood as being what a person who has been called to preach does. However,



involves simply telling others about Him. At other times, such as when the brokenness of the indi-

vidual is so great that it leaves them “paralyzed,” we have to “bring” them to Jesus. This “paralysis” is not only “physical” as in the case presented by Luke and Mark, it can also be mental, psychological, theological, or in any area that renders a person hopeless and helpless. Four men brought a paralyzed man to

Jesus. The KJV puts it this way in Mark, “And they came unto him, *bringing* one sick of palsy, which was borne of *four*” (My emphasis). It was Luke who provided us the seemingly small detail that each had a *corner*. It is obvious as we read the story that there had to be *compassion, cooperation, creativity, and courage* involved in getting that man to Jesus. It was their *compassion* that caused them to *care*. It was their *cooperation* that enabled them to *carry*. It was their *creativity* and *courage* that overcame the hindrance of the crowd. The development of this



mantra for ministry, *four corners ministry*, requires the teaching and understanding of the necessity of these four “C’s.” This model works. The story is proof.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru July 4

Exhibit
“Tell Their Story: Remembering the Scottsboro Boys”

Sponsors:
Burrirt on the Mountain, Francis Tate with CEOTA, John Allison and the Morgan County Archives, and The Scottsboro Boys Museum Scottsboro, Ala. The Burrirt Museum

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 Dedication
Sponsor: City of Decatur, the Alabama Women’s Suf-

frage Centennial Committee and the NCWHS
Decatur, Ala. - 2 p.m.

June 10-15

7th Annual Rise Against Hunger Event
(Virtual 5k Walk)
Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Registration Fee: \$20/person
Carla Parker, (256) 468-7291 or LaShanda Felton, (256) 810-7012

MAY 28 - GLADYS KNIGHT - Born in Atlanta, Ga., she is a seven-time Grammy Award-winner best known for the hits she recorded during the 1960s, ‘70s and ‘80s with Gladys Knight & the Pips, which also included her brother Merald “Bubba” Knight and cousins William Guest and Edward Patten.
- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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

(Mrs.) Butch Kohler Damson

Mrs. Butch Kohler Damson was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and moved to Huntsville, Alabama, in 1953. She is the daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Otto Philip Kohler. Mrs. Damson attended Huntsville High School and graduated in 1957. She pursued her college education at the University of Alabama, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961.

In the Huntsville-Madison County community, she has been actively involved in volunteering her time and talent with various organizations for over 45 years. I Peter 4:10 states that, "As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms."

The work that Mrs. Damson has done and continues to do in the community is truly an embodiment of that scripture. She works untiringly to help her fellow man or woman and does so with a great deal of humility and pride. When one observes her as she performs her service as a volunteer, she can easily be characterized as an Organizer, Inciter, Motivator, or even Wonder Woman, because she possesses a

pleasing personality and knows the right words to say to lure you to her team.

As a volunteer in the community, she serves and has served as a Board member and committee member for numerous organizations.

Some include: Chairman of the Board, Burritt Museum; Founding member, Greater Huntsville Humane Society's Advisory Council; Member, Huntsville Hospital Foundation; President, Botanical Gardens, Board of Directors, Cancer Society; Board of Directors, The Land Trust; Board of Directors, City of Huntsville Beautification Board; and Board of Directors, Voluntary Action Center.

While serving as a member on many of the organizations' boards, she was the initiator of many programs and activities, such as the City of Huntsville Beautification Awards in 1975, The Clean Community Program now called The Green Team, the Botanical Gardens' Welcome Center, The BMW Brunch, Burritt's Barnyard and the Master Plan for



Burritt City.

In her church community, she has served as Secretary of St. Joseph's Parish Council and has taught Sunday School to the sixth grade children.

In recognition of her contributions to the community and service to humanity, she has received scores of awards and honors.

Among these are: Path of Honor, Senior Center, 2007; Pineapple Award, Huntsville-Madison County Hospitality Award, 2005; Honoree, Rolls Royce of Roasts, American Diabetics Association, 2005; and the Grace Award, 2001. Mrs. Damson is married to Mr. Jerry L. Damson, and they are the proud parents of two (2), Deke and Susan Park, and they have six grandchildren.

"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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A New Generation Of Service

Statement from the Rosa Parks Day Committee Regarding the Recent Actions of Mayor Tommy Battle

On Wednesday, May 12, 2021, State Representatives Laura Hall and Anthony Daniels, members of the Rosa Parks Day Committee of Huntsville-Madison County (RPDC), Citizens Coalition for Justice Reform, and Pastor T.C. Johnson of St. Luke Christian Church, met with Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and his associate Steve Raby, regarding the affirmation of convicted murderer Huntsville Police Department Officer William Darby, by the mayor and HPD Chief Mark McMurray. During that meeting, Mayor Battle agreed to recant his affirmation of Officer Darby and had the following statement emailed to RPDC media liaison David Person: "I respect the decision of the

jury. I respect Officer Darby's right to appeal."

The next day, Mayor Battle granted an interview to AL.com's Paul Gattis during which he contradicted Wednesday's statement. "I stand on both statements," Battle told Gattis, referring to his initial affirmation of Officer Darby and the statement he sent to David Person.

The Rosa Parks Day Committee is profoundly disturbed by the Mayor's renewed affirmation of Officer Darby, and believe it reflects poorly on the city of Huntsville – especially as its role in state and national affairs continues to grow. We also believe that his alignment with Officer Darby raises questions about the Mayor's understanding of our justice

system and respect for the rule of law – and undermines the credibility of his own designation of Huntsville as an inclusive community via his "One Huntsville" campaign.

The committee also wonders how the Mayor's endorsement of a murderer will affect Huntsville's quest to be the headquarters of the highly anticipated Space Command. How will it be interpreted by the federal officials who are still debating what community is best suited to be Space Command's home?

In light of the Mayor's reversal of his commitment to our committee last week, we don't believe we can dialogue with the Mayor in good faith at this time. So we will not be meeting with him on Thurs-

day, May 20th at 9:30 a.m. as had been scheduled.

Further, the Rosa Parks Day Committee reinstates its call for the resignations of both Mayor Tommy Battle and HPD Chief Mark McMurray due to their support of convicted murderer

Officer Darby. Additionally, in light of the recent report submitted by the Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory Council, as well as the comments by the Mayor and HPD Chief, we call on the Department of Justice to investigate the Huntsville

Police Department for civil rights violations, discriminatory practices and malfeasance.

For more information about the Rosa Parks Day Committee, contact David Person, the Committee's media liaison, at (256) 701-2594.

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