

The Valley Weekly

FREE

*"It will never be perfect. Make it work."
- Life*

Volume 3, No. 40

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, June 16, 2017

HBCU Community Mourns Death of Morehouse Interim President

The Morehouse College and entire HBCU community are mourning the sudden death of interim president William J. "Bill" Taggart.

Taggart, who was named interim president in April, died suddenly on Wednesday evening, June 7.

Taggart is an Atlanta native who graduated from Howard University. With more than three decades of experience with Fortune 500 companies, higher education, boutique firms and federal government agencies, Taggart distinguished himself as a result-driven leader in both public and private sectors.

Taggart assumed the role

of Interim President on April 7, 2017. He had been the Chief Operating Officer of Morehouse since 2015.

As CEO of Atlanta Life Financial Group (ALFG), Taggart led the transformation of the 110-year-old firm that resulted in profits increasing over 700%, net margins growing from 3% to 24%, while doubling the firm's total equity and reinstating the corporate dividend to shareholders.

Taggart's experience also included several leadership posts with Wachovia Corporation, First Union Corporation and International Business Machines (IBM).

The Valley Weekly



received notice of Taggart's death on Thursday morning while participating in the National Sponsored Program Administrators Alliance in New Orleans.

Former AMC Head Joins Booz Allen

Booz Allen Hamilton has named retired U. S. Army General Dennis Via as a Senior Executive Adviser and a Defense Futures Fellow. According to BAH's President and CEO Horacio Rozanski in the recent press release, "Dennis is an exceptional leader who will continue his service to our nation through his position as a Booz Allen Fellow."

Via's last assignment prior to retirement from the U. S. Army was Commanding General of the Army Materiel Command here at Redstone Arsenal. Gen. Via and his wife, Linda Brown Via, along with their sons Brian and Bradley, were an integral part of the fiber of Huntsville.

Via earned his 4th Star at AMC on Redstone Arsenal and is affectionately referred to as "Our General" and more importantly as a consummate gentleman, husband, father and friend.



AAMU Board to Meet

The Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees will hold its regular summer meeting on Friday, June 23, at 10 a.m. in the Clyde Foster auditorium of the College of Business and Public Affairs. The public is invited.

Black Chamber Holding Statewide E&I Conference

Alabama State Black Chamber of Commerce Presents Its Annual Entrepreneurs and Innovators Conference in Birmingham

Small business owners and the general public are invited to join the Alabama State Black Chamber of Commerce in Birmingham on June 22-23, for its annual conference designed to help grow and strengthen small businesses. Conference participants will have opportunities to connect with small business owners, business leaders, and subject matter experts from across the nation.

The theme for the 2017 conference is "Breaking Down Barriers." Conference sessions include: Cultural Heritage/Tourism as a Catalyst to Economic Development, Real Estate/Land Use: Tools for Economic Change, The Truth

Alabama State Black
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
Help Us and Let us Help You

about Cyber Security: Protect your Business, and many more topics of interest.

This year's luncheon keynote speaker is Robert J. Dale, Founder/CEO Emeritus, RJ Dale Advertising & Public Relations headquartered in Chicago, IL. RJ Dale Advertising & Public Relations has been listed on Black Enterprise magazine's list of the nation's largest Black owned businesses grossing over \$40M a year in sales. The

Awards Breakfast keynote speaker is Dr. Jesse Lewis, founder of the Birmingham Times newspaper, and entrepreneur legend.

Cost for the two-day conference is \$69, which includes breakfast and lunch. The conference will be held at the Hilton Birmingham Perimeter Park.

For more information, visit the ASBCC website at www.alblackcc.org or telephone Alfred Adams at (256) 564-7574 or 256-508-5034.

Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

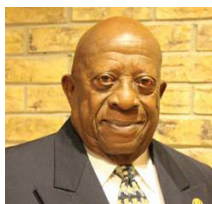
The Rosetta James Foundation Proudly Salutes Its Fathers/Elders (2007 - 2017)

Happy Father's Day!

Alphabetically ...



Rev. Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr.



Mr. Charles Briggins, Sr.



Atty. Julian Butler



Dr. Marwin Carroll



Rev. Leroy Cole



Mr. Jerry Damson



Mr. William Davis



Mr. Eugene Dickerson



Mr. James D. Foster



Dr. Terrell Harris



Dr. Razi Hassan



Dr. Joseph Henderson



Mr. Wiley J. Henderson



Rev. Dr. John Herndon III



COL (Ret) James O. Heyward



Mr. Freeman Holifield



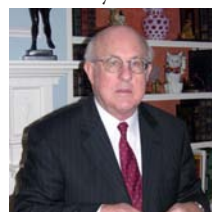
Mr. Jesse Johnson, Jr.



Elder T. Marshall Kelly



Rev. James Lane



Dr. William H. Leonard



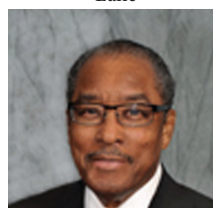
GEN (Ret) James Link



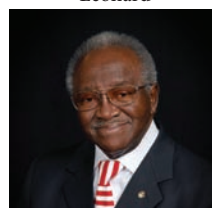
Mr. Albert M. Morris



Dr. Eugene H. Scott, Jr.



Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs



Hon. Richard Showers, Sr.



Dr. Charles T. Smoot



Mr. Allie Swann



Mr. Charles Vedane



Dr. John Vickers, Jr.



Dr. Jimmy Wall



Mr. Robert Wilson

- AAMU Public Relations Office
Albert's Flowers
Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law
Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center
Briar Fork CP Church
Bryant Bank - Church Street
Chris' Barber Shop
Depot Professional Building
Dunkin Donuts
Eagles' Nest Ministries
Fellowship of Faith Church
Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Health Unlimited
Huntsville Bible College
James Smith - AllState Insurance
Lakeside United Methodist Church
Lucky's Supermarket
Marshall England - State Farm Agent
Martinson & Beason, PC
Nelms Memorial Funeral Home
N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence
Oakwood University Post Office
Regency Retirement Village
Rocket City Barber Shop
Sam and Greg's Pizza
Sav-A-Lot
Sneed's Cleaners
Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)
Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



Greetings!

The Huntsville Bible College held its June 2017 annual Vision Banquet fundraiser. Among the highlights were the recognition of distinguished men and women who received the awards of distinction.

HBC recognized the **ROSETTA JAMES FOUNDATION** and **MRS. ROSETTA JAMES** as the 2017 HBC *Partner of the Year*.

Mrs. James, for whom this foundation is named, has enabled the college to fulfill its mission of building communities equipped with the skills and knowledge needed for success.

This partnership shares a common bond of stewardship and understanding which has been demonstrated by the financial gifts to the College.

A native of Akron, Ala., Mrs. James has shown her servant citizenship for more than 30 years in the Huntsville/Madison County community. Three years ago, the Rosetta James Foundation signed a \$100,000 commitment to partner with HBC. Mrs. James' memorabilia is on display at the Rosetta James Library (named in her honor) at the Huntsville Bible College.

Huntsville Bible College (HBC) honored **MR. HAROLD E. BATTS** as the 2017 *Alumnus of the Year*. Batts has demonstrated his commitment to HBC by his contributions and significant efforts which have further advanced the purposes and programs of the College. Batts received his Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Technology and a Master of Science in Urban Studies and Planning from Alabama A&M University. He later continued his education and ministry by receiving a Bachelor of Theology degree from HBC. Batts is President of the National Primitive Baptist Church School and R.E. McMillian BTU Congress.

He serves as Deacon, Sunday school teacher and Bible study assistant facilitator at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church.

MRS. BOBBIE HYDER has been committed and dedicated to the cause of Huntsville Bible College (HBC) since its inception.

Therefore, she was recognized as the 2017 HBC *Volunteer of the Year*. Without a doubt, Mrs. Hyder has been a strong spiritual and financial supporter of HBC for many years. She supports the cause, ideas, and goals of the Institution and does it with joy, a committed spirit, a willing heart, and a strong financial backing.

Mrs. Bobbie Hyder has served as a member of the Board of Directors for HBC for more than 10 years. She has served as secretary of the Board of Directors, legal signee for the College, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, the Program Planning and Review Committee, member of the Accreditation Committee, the Vision Banquet Committee and the Laughing All the Way Committee.

REV. DR. WAYNE P. SNODGRASS, a native of Huntsville, Ala., has been the Pastor of Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church since 1986. Rev. Snodgrass has served as the past moderator of the Flint River M. B. Association, former instructor for the National Baptist Convention of America, past President of the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship, and in other areas of the community.

Dr. Snodgrass began his twenty year journey with Huntsville Bible College (HBC) as an instructor in 1997 and was named the Academic Dean in February 2001. He played a significant role in launching the graduate program in 2013 and served as the Dean of Graduate Studies until his retirement.

Under his leadership as Dean of Graduate studies for the past four years, twenty (20) students have received the Master of Ministry degree and two additional majors have been added. Dr. Snodgrass was congratulated offered best wishes for his retirement.

Happy Father's Day to our readers who are fathers. Shannon L. Alder said: "The greatest thing a father can do for his children is to respect the woman that gave birth to his children." I agree with Shannon, so if you still have time, make it right. You know who you are!

Until next week ...

Dorothy



Artist Releases Inspiring Coloring Book

Local artist and educator John "Jahni" Moore has released a new coloring book aimed at providing inspiration for girls.

"For Coloring Girls Who Have Considered Living, When They Are Enough!" presents a series of illustrations printed in an interactive book.

This inspirational book allows readers/colorers to express themselves as the artist they are.

According to Moore, the imagery focuses on the infinite mystery of the female image, specifically women of color, but not limited in



jahniheartist.com

its range of influence.

Powerful women luminaries are quoted from Oprah Winfrey to Anais Ninn to Helen Keller.

"It's deliberate enough to put us on par with fairy tale princess and great legend, yet still so unpretentious that it doesn't shout or insist, rather simply and eloquently states, 'Black women belong here, too,'" notes Janna Peterson-Waddell, who wrote the book's forward.

She continues: "This thoughtfully effortless approach is what makes John Moore the man, simply Jahni the Artist whose work I've come to know and admire. It's what makes his pieces powerful, breathtaking and timeless."

Church Offering Summer Reading Program

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is offering a Free Summer Reading Mentoring Program for Huntsville City Schools rising middle and high school students.

The 2017 program will run for seven (7) consecutive Wednesdays ending on July 19.

From 11 a.m.-4 p.m., teachers lead the students as they read and discuss the required books. Mentors are invaluable as they read along with the students, lend support in the discussions, and later provide guidance as the students work on their projects. The last hour of each session a science teacher demonstrates a fun & educational,

hands-on science lesson.

•This program means the difference between students starting the year with a project in hand (They are always so proud of themselves!) or a zero and sense of failure.

•Great lunch is included every week.

If you know a student who would benefit from this program or a mentor who is willing to volunteer their time, please contact the St. Thomas church office at (256) 880-0247. If you're part of a group that might be interested in starting a similar program, please email Cooper Green at coopergreen3@gmail.com.

On Fatherhood

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." - Frederick Douglass

"I told them [the producers] I couldn't compound the lie that Black fathers don't care about their children." - Esther Rolle

"A father is a man who wants his children to be as good as he meant to be." - Carol Coats

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." - Billy Graham

"There was nothing his little girl couldn't do." - Condoleezza Rice

"One day you're going to wake up and notice that you should've tried. I was worth the fight." - Popular Absent Father Quote



June 16 - MARITA BONNER - She was a noted Harlem Renaissance era writer, essayist, and playwright.

- BlackinTime.info

Google Fiber Celebration at A&M

On Saturday, June 17, from 12-6 p.m., Google Fiber and 10Cole are hosting a first annual Juneteenth cook-out/celebration at the Alabama A&M University Louis Crews Stadium grounds.

The annual event will build community and drive awareness of the historic

and cultural lens of Juneteenth.

There will be food, music, games and cultural events to celebrate this freedom day.

Google Fiber is now serving North Huntsville, and this event will be a place for people sign up for Google Fiber service.

Google Fiber is now partnering with 10Cole on the event, who supported the first ever Black Lives Matter protest following the tragic murder of Philando Castile in partnership with Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.

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Valley Calendar of Events

June 17

Fun Festival & Expo (Free)
Von Braun Center - South Hall
Huntsville, Ala.

June 18

Father's Day

June 22

Multicultural Unity Celebration
Honoring the Late
Elizabeth Sloan-Ragland
Oakwood University Church
Dr. Carlton Byrd, Pastor
6 p.m.

June 23

Alabama A&M University
Board of Trustees Meeting
Clyde Foster Multipurpose Room
College of Business and Public Affairs
10 a.m.

July 9

Huntsville Community DrumLine
"iDrum"
1800 Jordan Lane, NW
3-4:30 p.m.

July 13

Dick Gregory
Stand Up Live
7 p.m.

July 13-15

Space Camp SummerFest

July 14

NSBE Professionals Golf Tournament
The Links at Redstone Arsenal
7 a.m.

July 21-30

W.C. Handy Music Festival
Florence, Ala.

Thru August 13

Dinosaur Uproar Alive
Huntsville Botanical Garden
Presented by: Toyota Alabama

October 10-15

Motown - The Musical
Von Braun Center - Concert Hall
Huntsville, Ala.



MULTICULTURAL UNITY CELEBRATION

BRINGING A DYNAMIC SENSE OF UNITY TO OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH WORD AND SONG.

LOVE



UNITY

Unity Thru
Spiritual Arts

"HONORING THE LIFE OF THE LATE"
ELIZABETH SLOAN-RAGLAND

Symposium & Gospel Music Concert

Featuring songs from area choirs and the unity song by the
Elizabeth Sloan-Ragland Multicultural Unity Choir.

Thursday, June 22, 2017 - 6 pm
Oakwood University Church
Dr. Pastor Carlton P. Byrd


Comedian
Jeff
Giant

AT 6PM THERE WILL BE AN EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AND PANEL DISCUSSION.
THE EVOLUTION OF BLACK MUSIC IN AMERICA, INCLUDING SPIRITUALS, GOSPEL, BLUES AND JAZZ AND ITS IMPACT ON
THE WORLD AND AMERICA'S ART AND CULTURE.

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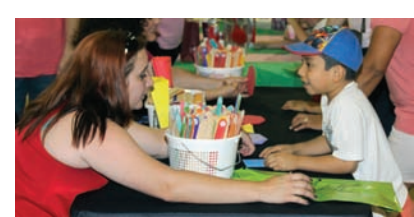
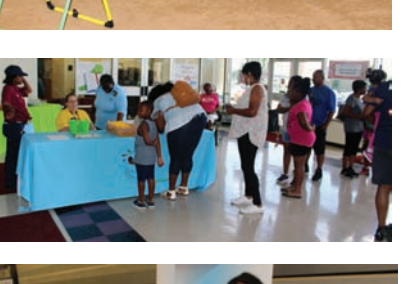



Community Welcomes Extension's Fun-filled Family Fun Day

Saturday, June 10, 2017

Alabama A&M University Agribition Center

Sponsor: Alabama Cooperative Extension System



Case to Hold Free Concert

R&B artist Case is treating a handful of locals to a free concert at Envy Entertainment and Restaurant on July 29 at 7 p.m.

The “Missing You” singer was scheduled to perform at Monica’s April 29 show at the Von Braun Center, but had to drop out due to last-minute health concerns.

The following morning, Case posted a heartfelt apology on social media, confirming that he was “extremely ill and couldn’t

perform.”

However, to make up for his absence, Case announced plans for a free concert.

The show, titled “An Evening with R&B Sensation Case,” is free to the public, but space is extremely limited. Patrons with a ticket stub from the Monica concert will receive “exclusive VIP access.”

Case hit the scene as a backing vocalist for some of R&B’s heavyweights, but made a name for himself with his self-titled album, which boasted the hit single “Touch Me,

Tease Me” featuring Mary J Blige and the late Lisa “Left Eye” Lopez.

Over the course of his career, the 41-year-old has churned out several hits, including “Faded Pictures”, “Best Man I Can Be” and “Happily Ever After.”

In February, the R&B veteran released Love Jones Vol 1, a four-track EP follow-up to his sixth studio album “Heaven’s Door.” For additional information, please call (256) 274-2986.

by Reggie D. Allen



The Soul Series: The Hamiltones, the backing vocalists for Grammy Award-winning artist Anthony Hamilton performed an energy-filled set at the Boutwell Auditorium on June 8. Introduced by Hamilton himself, the trio sang a mixture of covers and gospel hymns. Additionally, the showcase featured guest performances by Algebra Blesset and Blanche J. Photo By Reggie Allen

Downtown ‘Stations’ Offer Relaxation

Relax.Play.Ride is a new creative place-making initiative from Downtown Huntsville, Inc (DHI), involving the placement of four pianos and twelve chairs, sponsored by PNC Bank, nearby various Downtown Huntsville BlueBikes stations.

These beautifully crafted, used pieces have been hand-painted by local artists and depict everything from fictitious maps to a lively painting of the musical artist Prince.

Chad Emerson, President/CEO of Downtown Huntsville, Inc., explained his vision for the project stemmed from a desire to create more experiences for residents and visitors alike in Huntsville’s downtown core.

“We wanted to provide our bike share guests an opportunity to do something fun and quirky before or after their ride,” Emerson said. “Best of all, non-bike share guests can

also enjoy the pianos (play) and the chairs (relax).”

The ‘ride’ element of the Relax.Play.Ride stations refers to the Downtown Huntsville BlueBikes stations, which are strategically near the locations.

Relax.Play.Ride aims to generate more foot traffic in downtown while enhancing the experience of those who already enjoy the varying activities and events found in the heart of the Rocket City.

A special bike share discount is being offered through August 31 to celebrate the new program. As part of the promotion, Zagster bike share membership for a full year will cost \$25, providing yet another reason to slow down, take it easy and experience the quirky, fun parts of Downtown Huntsville on their own time.

Head on out to Downtown



Huntsville throughout the months of June and July with friends and family to enjoy the stations while exploring the City’s downtown parks, museums, restaurants and landmarks all at the same time.

A list of the stations where you can relax, play and ride: S.R. Butler Green, Twickenham Square, West Side Square, Washington/Clinton, Five Points, Jefferson/Holmes, Big Spring West and Big Spring East.

by

Emily Thomason
Communications Intern
Mayor’s Office

Marker Unveiled on Site Where Council Got His Start in Education

Several members of the Huntsville Madison County Alumni Chapter and friends of Alabama A&M University attended the unveiling ceremony of a special historical marker in Stevenson, Ala., on Friday, June 9.

During the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War, a freedmen’s community was established in the area called Averyville, named after Pennsylvania minister and businessman Charles Avery, a longtime and faithful champion of what was then referred to as ‘Negro education.’ Wilmer Walton, a Quaker missionary, moved to Stevenson and Averyville around 1865, opening a school financed by the Quaker “Friends’ Association for Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen”. The new marker sets into historical prominence the community of Averyville, where Dr. William Hooper Council, the man who would ultimately found historic Alabama A&M University and St. John AME Church in Huntsville, received his formal education.

That education led to his role in the training of other African-American teachers and a series of events that catapulted him into national prominence with the ranks of Booker T. Washington.

Several locals and AAMU alumni attended to ceremony, among them Eddie Davis, Jr., (above) the author of the book, “William Hooper Council: The Greatest Negro the Race Ever Produced.”



Photo by Theromiles Flowers

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

We’ve all come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. Sometimes our faith is “tied” to the way that we want things to happen, not the

way that God wants them to happen.

For example, some people never finish school because their circumstances change

in their lives. But if we put our trust in God’s plan, and don’t give up on His promises, we will make it. The way that we make it is

by putting our faith in the right place, which is in God’s capable hands. So, no matter what circumstance we may find ourselves in, don’t let your faith be “tied” to the way that you want them to happen. 2 Timothy 1:7 says: “For God has not given us

a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.” Having self-discipline, gives us the power to continue doing what we need to do to fulfill the plan that God has for our lives ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.



The Gathering of Men

by

Lamar Braxton, Jr.

(A tribute to the million man march and the promise keepers movement)

When Men gather, things happen
The earth rumbles,
Rivers overflow their banks
The thunder roars ferociously,
And electrons discharge
between electrified regions
of the clouds
Thereby, lighting the sky.

When Men Gather, the wind blows,
Bringing forth fresh air filled with new ideas,
And the sun brightens and warms the surface of the earth.

When men gather, 100 story buildings are constructed,

Pyramids are designed,
Rockets are fabricated,
And Mars becomes a neighboring world instead of a distant planet.

When Men gather, the hungry are fed,
The ill are healed,
The sad are comforted,
And the weak are strengthened.

When Men gather, families become a unit,
Neighborhoods are made safe,
States gain a vision,
And nations become formidable.

So come Men.....
Let us gather Men.....
Unit in brotherhood
Men.....

Gather ... For Love,
Gather ... For Peace,
Gather ... For Us.



2017 Leaders & Legends Dinner

featuring Emmitt Smith



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TOUR

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6 p.m.

*Attendees will have opportunity to participate in a good-will offering.

Mission

- Urban Strings Columbus is a youth orchestra of serious, young, talented, suburban, & charter schools
- Celebrating Our 10 Year Anniversary
- Inspiring Your Community To Create A Youth String Orchestra
- Celebrating African-American Music Appreciation Month

Fun Fact: In 1979, President Jimmy Carter created Black Music Month, but the name was changed to African-American Appreciation Month by President Obama



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