

UAH Takes Lead in Drought Communication - p. 5

FREE



Vets' Valor Remembered - p. 8

Friday

July 14, 2023

Vol. 9, No. 45

ValleyWeeklly.com

TIM: A Plant-based World? - p. 5

The Valley Weekly

PRESTON BROWN: Having a Giving Spirit - p. 3

SALUTE!

Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Doris Ellison

"There are two ways of exerting one's strength: one is pushing down, the other is pulling up." - Booker T. Washington



LEGACY-SQUARED! What do you get when you cross kids from The Legacy Center's summer camp with all the attractions of North Huntsville's Legacy Park? Well, more screams, shrieks, tumbles, energy and sheer fun than the law ought to allow! Of about 30 kids, these five were especially interested in the camera. Meet (l-r) Aiden Uribe, Jarquez Coleman, Caspian Powell, Jayceon Delanie and Majore Grays. (Photo by Jerome Saintjones)

Site Adds Rocket City to Affordability and 'Plentiful Jobs' Listing

Gobankingrates.com recently placed Huntsville, Ala., among its top 10 list of affordable places with good job prospects.

"With many American families struggling with high rent, credit card debt and student loans, it might be difficult to find an affordable place to lay down roots," noted the editors in a piece dated July 8. "Finding a place to live with good-paying jobs and affordable hous-



ing is certainly a delicate balance. Many U.S. cities have one or the other, with American families assuming that a city with decent wages will come with high housing costs. But luckily, there are plenty of cities that offer the best of both worlds."

The site gathered data

from 200 biggest housing markets in the U.S., according to Zillow, and merged it with figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Three in the top 10 are Alabama cities, and three are located in Indiana.

The listing includes: Birmingham, Ala.; Evansville, Ind.; Springfield, Mo.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; **Huntsville, Ala.**; Montgomery, Ala.; Lincoln, Neb.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; and Indianapolis, Ind.

CAFY 2023 Event July 15

Looking to participate in a meaningful effort that helps others?

The Community Awareness for Youth (CAFY) program will hold its "Stuff the Bus" event at Calhoun Community College's Huntsville campus on Saturday, July 15, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The breakdown of activities follows:
—FREE Refuge Church grocery distribution (9-10 a.m.)
—FREE Backpacks, school supplies, music, dancing, fun, food, inflatables, entertainment, static displays, student resources, etc. (11 a.m.-2 p.m.)
—WHERE: Calhoun Com-

munity College (In second building on the campus), 102 Wynn Drive, Huntsville, Ala.

CAFY is an annual program, managed by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, for students ages 12-18 in Huntsville Madison County that seeks to provide youth with the necessary tools for success into adulthood. CAFY focuses on four pillars of success: Health, Education, Careers and Finances.



CAFY honors students at City Council meetings and hosts an annual Back-to-School event each August. Sponsors provide networking opportunities to make connections with local organizations that offer youth services such as mentoring, guidance, and program assistance.

Sponsors include the Huntsville Police Department, Team C.A.F.Y., the governments of the City of Huntsville, City of Madison and Madison County, and numerous volunteers and businesses.

For additional information, contact Dr. Harry Hobbs, CAFY founder, at (256) 783-1793 or e-mail harry.hobbs@hsvutil.org.

The Valley Weekly

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**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

The Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

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

1. **CONGRESS.** The House and Senate return to session this week after two weeks off. The House this week will take up the \$886 billion FY 2024 defense authorization bill, which contains a 5.2% pay increase for servicemembers and creates a new Space National Guard. FBI Director Christopher Wray was scheduled to testify before the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday and he was expected to be closely questioned by Committee Chair Jim Jordan (R-OH) regarding the indictment of former President Trump. On Tuesday, the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations was slated to hold a hearing on professional golf's PGA-LIV merger, focusing on Saudi Arabia's part in the deal.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Sunday, President Biden began a five-day European trip starting in London with meetings Monday with King Charles III and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak; then he continued on to Vilnius, Lithuania, on Tuesday to attend the 74th NATO Summit, followed by a stop Thursday in Helsinki, Finland, for the U.S.-Nordic Leaders Summit. Last week, The New York Times reported

that President Biden has had 136 federal judges confirmed to date – more judicial confirmations than Presidents Trump, Obama, and George W. Bush up to this point in their presidencies, with two-thirds of the nominees being women and two-thirds being people of color.

3. **SUPREME COURT.** The Supreme Court has ended its 2022-23 term and will reconvene its new term on Monday, October 2.

4. **JUNE JOBS REPORT.** On Friday, the Commerce Department announced that the economy added 209,000 jobs in June, which is the 30th consecutive month of job gains. In June, the gainers were in the healthcare, government, and construction sectors, while hiring in retail and transportation dipped. The overall unemployment rate fell to 3.6%, down from May's 3.7%, although the unemployment rate rose for Black and Hispanic workers. Last Monday, the Commerce Department announced an increase in construction spending in May, up 0.9% from a month earlier, which makes a notable 76.3% increase in construction spending in the last 12 months and shows construction of factories at 0.5% of gross domestic product for the 1st Quarter of 2023 (the

largest since 1991).

5. **SOCIAL MEDIA CASE.** Last Thursday, the Justice Department requested a stay against Louisiana Federal Judge

Terry Doughty's sweeping injunction issued on the July 4th holiday limiting the Biden Administration's communication with social media companies over censorship concerns – in a case brought by the GOP attorneys general of Missouri and Louisiana. Tuesday's order had an immediate impact on the Administration's efforts to curb disinformation online, with The Washington Post

reporting that the State Department was forced to cancel a regular meeting with Facebook officials on Wednesday to discuss 2024 election preparations and hacking threats. The Justice Department is appealing the order of Judge Doughty (who was appointed by President Trump in 2017) to the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

5. **2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES.** Last Saturday, the Iowa Republican Party announced that the first-in-the-nation Iowa GOP caucuses will be held on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, which also happens to be the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday. The next event on the GOP calendar will be the New Hampshire primary on Tuesday, Jan.

23. On the Democratic side, South Carolina is scheduled to hold the first Democratic primary in early February; however, officials in Iowa and New Hampshire are continuing to protest having their primacy in the order taken away, with both states threatening to hold earlier contests. The Democratic National Committee has vowed to strip voting rights at the national convention for either state that tries to supersede the new order.

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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. CELESTINE ("TINA") HAYGOOD (b. 1962) was held Saturday, July 8, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Waymond K. Smith, Officiant and Pastor Larry Petty, Eulogist.

Funeral service for MS. LEAH ANN FORD (b. 1961) was held Saturday, July 8, at Saint Mark Baptist Church.

Funeral service for MR. RODDERICK RICARDO MCELROY (b. 1957) was held Thursday, July 6, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with The Reverend Ophelia Davis officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CARLOS MCNEIL (b. 1985) was Wednesday, July 5, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with The Reverend Walter Sullivan officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MR. RICHARD LEE HOLDEN (b. 1959) will be 1 p.m., Thursday, July 13, 2023, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW Huntsville, AL 35810).

Funeral service for MR. EDWARD DE'ANTE MILTON (b. 1989) was held Sunday, July 9, at the Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Belafonte Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Jaymes Mooney officiating.

Memorial service for MS. KAREN DENISE MCDAVIS (b. 1959) was held Saturday, July 8, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses (2820 Winchester Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Brother Don Diekman officiating.

Funeral service for MR. THEOPLIS "Jeff" FORD (b. 1956) was held Saturday, July 8, at the Saint Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Trevor Stewart officiating.

Funeral service for MR. GARY LEE HARDIN (b. 1977) was held Monday, July 3, at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (315 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MS. BOLUTIFE FAWOLE (b. 2004) was held Saturday, July 8, at Big Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 2415 Old Moulton Road, Decatur, Ala.

The Valley Weekly
Spiritual Game Plan
PRESTON BROWN'S



Having a Giving Spirit

Luke 6:38 says, "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

When we read this scripture and understand its meaning, we cannot help but realize that God loves a cheerful giver. My question is this: does God see you as a giver and a sower of seeds, or does He see you as a taker?

I believe that when God sees you as a giver, He will

always supply the seed. In other words, if He can get it through you, He will get it to you.

I understand that sometimes we may think, *How can I give when I do not have it to give?*

Well, this would be true if there were no God. However, there is a God that says in His word that He will supply all our needs according to His riches (Philippians 4:19).

Therefore, the way to financial freedom is not by hoarding and it is not by taking all the time; it is by giving.

I know that this strategy for financial freedom may not make sense to many people but just remember: with God all things are possible and He loves a cheerful giver.



May God grant you spiritual success in your willingness to give.

Question: Would you consider yourself a cheerful giver? If so, why?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my book *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life* at amazon.com, Westbow Books or if you have a PayPal account email me at prestonbrown81@gmail.com, and I will send you an autographed copy.

Huntsville 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.

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"We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated."

- Maya Angelou

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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

July 11
Huntsville Police Citizens
Advisory Council Meeting
5:30-6:30 p.m.

July 12
Zoning Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m.

July 15
Gel Plate Printing Class
(Beginner Level)
University Pickers-Huntsville
<https://www.universi-typickers.com/events/beginner-lever-gel-plate-printing-change-purse-class/>
1-3 p.m.

Huntsville's "Spectacular
Drag Brunch" at Stand
UpLive
Tickets: <https://huntsville.standuplive.com/shows/224843> (\$15)
12-1:30 p.m.

July 19-22
Rocket City Magic Camp
Optimist Recreation Center
\$300/Child
<https://alabamaacademyof-magic.square.site/>
8:30-11:30 a.m.

July 20
Huntsville Madison County
Public Library Summer
Reading Program Ends

July 21-22
Eddie Griffin
Stand Up Live Huntsville
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.

July 22
"Jazz It Up" Handy Fest
Night
Avalon Social
Muscle Shoals, Ala.
7 p.m.

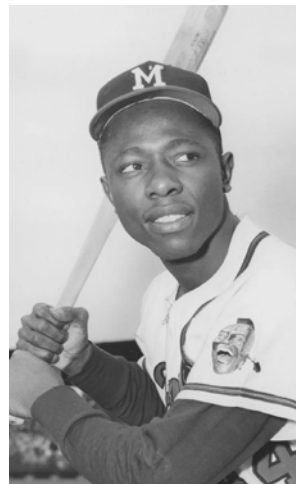
August 5
Alabama Association for

the Arts
2nd Annual Black Tie Gala
<https://www.blacktiegalalahsv.com/>
Stone Event Center
7-11 p.m.

August 19
Shop Black Huntsville Fest
Butler Green @ Campus
805
Huntsville, Ala.

Shakespeare in the Garden
"A Midsummer Night's
Dream"
Huntsville Botanical Garden
7:30 p.m.

August 27
Learning Expo 2023
The Orion Amphitheater
MidCity
Huntsville, Ala.
1 p.m.



ON THIS DAY

American baseball
great Hank Aaron,
a native of
Mobile, Ala.,
hit his 500th
career home
run.

- Britannica.com

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.

"In nature, nothing
is perfect and
everything
is perfect."

- Alice Walker

PowerShot

"All things are possible. Who you are is limited by who you think you are."

Book of Coming Forth By Day



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"It is easy to be brave from a safe distance."

- Aesop



Climatologist Lee Ellenberg and Alabama Drought Reach Program Coordinator Brienne Minton observe corn tasseling in a local corn field.

UAH Takes a Leadership Role in Improvement of Drought Communication

The high heat, oppressive humidity, and periods of little to no rainfall typical of Alabama summers can cause flash droughts that threaten agriculture, the state's largest industry. Alabama Drought Reach, a new climate program housed at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), aims to improve communication between scientists and farmers during times of drought.

This program is a partnership between the Alabama Office of the State Climatologist at UAH, a part of the University of Alabama System, and the Auburn University Water Resources Center with support from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station.

"The goal of Alabama Drought Reach is to improve drought literacy across the state of Alabama," says Brienne Minton, program coordinator.

"Not only will it benefit our farmers and the state climate office, but it will also serve as a valuable tool for the general public to understand how their food and necessities are impacted by drought."

Alabama Drought Reach is an Auburn University Water Resources Center program. Minton's office is located at UAH to foster in-person collaboration with the state climate office.

"Partnering with Auburn University in this capacity allows each of us to combine our unique strengths, better serving our farmers across Alabama," says Dr. Lee Ellenberg, associate state climatologist.

Ellenberg oversees setting Alabama's drought levels each week. His report helps determine the classifications of drought, which could allow farmers to receive state and federal drought assistance.

The state climate office

uses satellite remote sensing, weather models and in-situ data to understand how temperature, humidity, soil moisture and precipitation can cause dry-downs during the summer.

"But how Alabama's crops are impacted is what really defines drought," Ellenberg says, "We need to know from farmers how their crops are impacted by the weather."

To help collect weekly information on the status of Alabama's crops, the Alabama Drought Reach program will build a direct pipeline of communication between farmers and the state climate office, with extension and experiment station personnel serving as liaisons.

Agents will be trained to monitor specific farm sites by taking photos and measuring the scale of wetness weekly. The scale of wetness is determined based on the crop's critical growth stage and how the

crop is faring throughout the growing season. Then they will input the scale of wetness information and photos into an app.

"This information will allow the state climate office to relay to the United States Drought Monitor the justification as to why Alabama should be in a certain classification of drought based on how crops are impacted by weather conditions weekly," Ellenberg says.

In return, the objective data the state climate office produces will be funneled by the Alabama Drought Reach program to extension and experiment station personnel to be disseminated to farmers within their counties.

To stay informed on the latest drought information for the state of Alabama, follow Alabama Drought Reach program Twitter handle, @ALDroughtReach.

by Liz Junod, UAH.edu



Attention, "We the South":

The Plant-based, Meatless Revolution is Here!

(Reprinted 6/20/19 TVW column)

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." - 3 John 2, KJV

CNN Business, 5-3-19: "The plant-based protein trend is growing more rapidly than most people anticipated."

Wall Street Journal, 6-4-19, front page: "Fast-food restaurants are rushing to add meat-free burgers to their menus, hoping these higher-priced alternatives will help them capture additional traffic and dollars even as suppliers have struggled to fill all the orders."

Imitation meats made by Beyond Meat Inc. and Impossible Foods Inc. are on sale at nearly 20,000 restaurants across the U.S., according to those companies.

Fifteen percent of U.S. restaurants offered meatless burgers in March, according to a Technomic Inc. study of menus from 6,000 operators, with the number serving them up 3% from a year earlier.

Restaurants' embrace of vegetarian-friendly fare reflects competition among fast-food chains to attract younger diners who prioritize sustainability and healthfulness.

Bloomberg News' Deena Shanker: "There are two main drivers right now:

1. Everyone's looking now to eat healthier, . . . and
2. A lot of young people now are looking to reduce their carbon footprint. . . . Since meat production is a major driver of climate change, eating less meat is one way to do that."

A "We the South" Marshall Plan?

Southern states claim the nation's:

- Highest rates of preventable deaths;
- Highest obesity, stroke, and diabetes levels;
- Lowest education, life expectancy levels; and
- Highest consumption of meats, fried foods, and fewer vegetables!



"Meat" from the Co-Founder of Alabama's/HBCU's only Meat-free Campus . . .

In her 1905 book *The Ministry of Healing* Mrs. Ellen G. White, the 1896 founder of Huntsville's Oakwood Industrial School (now University, Alabama's and HBCU's only meat-free campus), wrote: "In order to know what are the best foods, we must study God's original plan for man's diet. Grains, fruits, nuts and vegetables . . . prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing. They impart a strength, a power of endurance, and a vigor of intellect that are not afforded by a more complex diet."

More Meat from President John F. Kennedy . . .

To update (in parentheses) JFK: "Those who make peaceful (voluntary plant-based, meatless) revolution impossible will make violent (stroke, obesity, cancer, death) revolution inevitable."

Tim Allston, Leadership Coach and Three-time Amazon Best-selling Author, *Leading from the Middle*
(256) 212-0949 -www.timallston.com

African Americans and the Truth about Multiple Myeloma

(BPT) - Thomas, an African American man, shares his multiple myeloma story: from diagnosis at a young age to continued treatment to his role in clinical trials and as an advocate. This is his personal story, and others may be different.

Thomas' story

At 34 years old, Thomas' world changed forever. As the youngest of 11 siblings and father to 3 young children at the time, he was busy staying active in the gym, working and spending time with loved ones. While on a family vacation, a radiating pain from his shoulder led him down a path he never could have imagined for himself - he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

Upon arriving home from his family vacation, Thomas immediately saw his family physician for his shoulder pain and was diagnosed with bursitis in his shoulder. Bursitis

is the painful swelling of the fluid-filled pads that cushion the joints. The diagnosis didn't sit right with him - he knew there was more going on with his body. He persisted and contacted a sports medicine specialist, underwent tests and learned that his pain was caused by cancerous plasma cells in his shoulder blades, known as plasmacytoma.

After being referred to an oncologist and undergoing initial radiation treatment, Thomas noticed the pain returning, this time in his lower back. It was then that he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and his journey with continued treatment and advocacy began.

Navigating the trials and tribulations of multiple

myeloma

Multiple myeloma is a disease that starts in the plasma cells, a type of white blood cell that normally fights infections. It is the second most common blood cancer in the US with more than 34,000 people estimated to be diagnosed this year. This type of cancer is generally considered treatable, but not curable. African Americans are disproportionately affected by multiple myeloma and are two to three times as likely to be diagnosed when compared with non-Hispanic Whites.

When Thomas was first diagnosed, he was scared about what this diagnosis meant for



his future, but he refused to become a statistic. Following his initial radiation treatment for multiple myeloma, he underwent an autologous stem cell transplant - a standard treatment option for newly diagnosed patients. An autologous stem cell transplant removes the patient's own stem cells from the bone marrow or blood where they are returned following chemotherapy and sometimes radiation. After just two months, he relapsed, meaning his disease returned.

Unfortunately, for multiple myeloma patients this is not uncommon, even after responding positively to treatment. For many, there's also the possibility that their disease stops responding to a treatment, which is known as refractory multiple myeloma.

Still hopeful, Thomas made the decision to enroll in two clinical trials. He realized that participation in clinical trials wasn't just important for him - it was for all of the people who would be diagnosed after him, particularly for those within the African American community, as this group is historically underrepresented in clinical trials.

During the clinical trials, Thomas received allogeneic stem cell transplants, meaning the patient receives stem cells from another person, who is closely matched to the patient's cell type, which may be better at fighting the cancer. In Thomas' case, he received donor stem cells from his brother.

Thomas understood the importance of equitable representation and a care team who could help him seek out available clinical trials. He noted that while many don't realize it, participation in clinical trials isn't just for those who have had a failed treatment - some trials exist to see how long treatment can work or to help determine the right dose of a drug.

Strength in numbers

Thomas is incredibly open about the impact of his care team on his experience with multiple myeloma. He has a very close relationship with his oncologist who specializes in hematologic conditions, such as multiple myeloma. When he was first diagnosed, her involvement in the International Myeloma Working Group, an organization that conducts research to improve outcomes for myeloma patients and provides consensus guidelines for the global community, allowed Thomas to access resources and information that he may not have had otherwise. He also gives credit to his oncology nurses, who were an integral part of his day-to-day treatment and were there when he needed

more support and answers to questions regarding his diagnosis and treatment.

Beyond his core medical team, Thomas has access to a social worker who helps him make sure that he is not only taking care of his physical health, but his mental health too. His social worker has been an important resource for Thomas, especially when he started his work as an advocate, speaking at events and meeting other patients like him through multiple myeloma support groups.

Thomas also leans on his strong circle of friends and family who he can rely on, vent to and count on to get him out of "the myeloma universe." For him, this is just as important as the medical interventions.

A message for his community

As a Black man who was diagnosed at a young age, it has been especially important for Thomas to connect with his community and share information about multiple myeloma and the early signs and symptoms to look out for. African Americans have an earlier onset of diagnosis, which was the case for Thomas, and tend to experience conditions that could be an indicator of the disease, such as hypertension or high blood pressure. Some other common symptoms of the disease include bone pain (most often

in the back, hips and skull), high blood levels of calcium and low blood counts, which can lead to other symptoms such as anemia.

the Triangle Area Support Group, a group focused on supporting and educating patients and their loved ones faced with multiple myeloma.



Although it can sometimes feel uncomfortable, Thomas encourages those in his community to have open conversations with their loved ones to understand their health history and genetic risk. Learning the signs and symptoms of multiple myeloma, as well as potential risk factors, can help with early detection and determining how best to treat it.

In his own words, Thomas' experience with multiple myeloma was "another test to his testimony." Despite his diagnosis testing his strength and resiliency, both physically and mentally, Thomas' advocacy work has allowed him to bring his joy to others in ways he never imagined. He founded

He is grateful for the opportunity to be an advocate for those in the multiple myeloma community and hopes that his story inspires and empowers people to learn more about multiple myeloma, including their risk factors, treatment options and resources.

If you or a loved one have been diagnosed with multiple myeloma, reach out to organizations such as International Myeloma Foundation, Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, HealthTree Foundation, or Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to find a support group in your area. [Thomas is a paid spokesperson for GSK, a global biopharmaceutical company. (Visit gsk.com)]

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, July 16, 2023
Seventh Sunday
After Pentecost

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:[1-8], 9-14

Second Lesson:

Romans 8:1-11

GOSPEL:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



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

Mrs. Doris Ellison

Huntsville, Ala., resident Doris Ellison attended and graduated from Council High School. A retiree of Bellsouth AT&T, where she worked for 32 years as a service representative (business), Ellison and her husband, the late Perry Ellison, Jr., had five children.

Mrs. Ellison praised and glorified God for the fact that her five children completed college and became successful professionals in the world of work. As an active and productive member of the community, she volunteered with the Salvation Army, Huntsville Hospital and the Bellsouth AT&T Pioneers.

On Wednesdays, she volunteered at the Huntsville Hospital, performing such duties as answering the telephone, providing information to visitors and delivering flowers to patients' rooms.

With the Salvation Army, she answered the telephone and took requests for donations, such as furniture, clothing, etc. Additionally, as a volunteer



with the Bellsouth AT&T Pioneers, she assisted with the screening of volunteers for the Pioneers and assisted Top of Alabama Regional Council with its Annual Senior Day.

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Ellison and her children established the Perry Ellison Scholarship Foundation. The Foundation sponsors an annual drama produced by her daughter, Mrs. Delanus Sharpe. The

proceeds support scholarships.

Ellison was a long-time and active member (more than 57 years) of Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church. At Pine Grove, she served as a member of the Senior Usher Ministry and Senior Missionary Ministry. Also, she worked with the Youth Department, where she assisted youths with career development preparation.

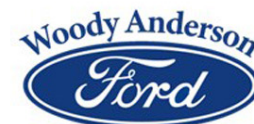


"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valley-weeklyllc.com.



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A New Generation Of Service

JULY 14 - TAMIKA "TINY" HARRIS is an American singer-songwriter from Jonesboro, Georgia. Cottle rose to fame in the 1990s as a member of the American multi-platinum R&B vocal group Xscape. Cottle is also known for her marriage to rapper T.I.. Cottle received a Grammy Award for her writing contributions on the TLC hit "No Scrubs". Cottle acquired the nickname "Tiny" due to her small stature of 4'11". In 2001, Cottle began dating rapper T.I. Cottle and T.I. married on July 30, 2010 in Miami Beach, Florida.



- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org

Huntsville's 19th Century Black History Telling Our Stories

Black Valor A Circle of Remembrance

Ollye B. Conley
Researcher
The Circle of Remembrance



African Americans fought in all of America's wars. Beginning with Crispus Attucks and the American Revolution, both free and enslaved people participated. They served their country with valor and pride. Many of them came from the South. The following veterans from Huntsville/Madison County researched through ancestry.com, were members of that early crusade fighting for freedom, equality and justice.

Samuel Drake, a Civil War veteran, enlisted in the military on January 13, 1866. He was born August 12, 1839 in Madison, Alabama

to the parents of Jasper and Nancy Drake. In addition to Samuel, their children were Harriett, Henry and Narcissa. Samuel's children were Henry and Susan Drake.

Archie Eldridge was a Civil War veteran. He enlisted on February 1, 1864 in Nashville, Tennessee. He was mustered into the 15th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry Company K. He is later listed in the 101st Regiment, United States Colored Infantry Company G. Private Archie Eldridge was a wagoner and is listed on the Civil War Memorial.

William Hobbs enlisted in the United States Army Company C. He was fifty

years old when he made a deposit in the Freedman's Bank in Huntsville, Alabama. His parents were Clinton and Linsey Hobbs. His siblings were Lisa, Margaret, Arthur and Wesley. William and his wife Margaret Hobbs had three children; Mary, Joseph and Julia Ann. In 1867, William, along with many recently freed African American men, registered to vote.

William Wallace Skillen enlisted in the United States Army and served with the 110th Regiment, Company D during the Civil War. He was born in 1840 in Madison, County. His parents were Derry and Sally Skillen.

William's siblings were Jesse, Dolphus, Lewis, Alex, Ann, Manda and Mary. He married Ann Woodring Skillen. William died in December of 1890 in Huntsville, Alabama.

James R. Stephens was a World War I veteran. He left for Brest, France on February 22, 1919. The transport ship was the Aquitania. Sergeant James R. Stephens served in the United States 366th Infantry Company B, 92nd Division. He was born in 1893 in the state of Alabama. Callie Jones was his mother. He was buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

John W. Pleasants was born in 1891 in Huntsville, Alabama. His parents were Henry and Lucy Pleasants. His siblings were John W., Robert, Henrietta and Minnie. John W. Pleasants was listed among the men ordered to report to the local

board in Madison, Alabama for military duty in 1917. He reported on December 6, 1917 and was sent to Camp Dodge in the state of Iowa. He was enlisted in the United States 366th Infantry.

Wesley Jones was a member of the 10th Cavalry Troop I. He served with the 10th Cavalry when they charged on El Cany and San Juan Hill. He was also stationed at 10th Cavalry Hill in Huntsville, Alabama in January of 1899. Wesley was later promoted to sergeant and was stationed at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont. He was born in Madison County, Alabama in 1856. His parents were Jefferson and Lee Ann Jones. Wesley's grandparents were Harry and Judy Jones. They lived in New Market on the Widow Jones plantation. Wesley was married to Titia Jones.

Many of our ancestors served in the military. They had great stories which they told on the front porch, at the supper table or underneath a tree in the yard during the summer. My father was a World War I veteran stationed in Brest, France.

As a child, I would frequently hear him using French words and phrases. His favorites were "Bonjour" and "Parlez-vous francais." ('Hello' and 'Do you speak French?') That was my introduction to a foreign language and country.

What are your stories? Please give life to your ancestors by telling their stories. Share with the Circle of Remembrance at William@huntsvillerevisited.com. Your stories will be preserved and placed in the proposed Huntsville African American Museum.

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