

# Summer 2022's Travel Trends - p. 8

# FREE

## Focusing on "The Crisis" - p. 3

Friday

July 15, 2022

Vol. 8, No. 45

ValleyWeeklyllc.com



# The Valley Weekly

## ALPHAS HONOR 2022 SCHOLARS



See Page 5

"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are." - e.e. cummings



**DRONING AT DRAKE:** Instructor Stephanie Love (left) recently provided directions on drone operations at a hands-on Drones Boot Camp offered by Drake State Community and Technical College. Also pictured are MacKenzie Steele (Huntsville High) and Kennedy Dubose (Lee High). Photo by J. Saintjones

## TVW Columnist Voted to Vandy Top 100

A popular columnist for The Valley Weekly has been selected by Vanderbilt University fans for a special honor.



Preston Brown has been voted as one of

the top 100 greatest Commodore football players of all time, an initiative that was created to celebrate 100 years of Vanderbilt Stadium. The full list was slated for release Friday, July 7, allowing Brown to view his name among his fellow top 100 Commodore greats. Brown will receive the honor in Nashville during a special commemorative weekend in his honor, featuring a cocktail reception on Friday, September 2, and a tailgate on Saturday, September 3, before recognizing him during the home opener vs. Elon.



## Coming Soon ...

## TVW Columnist-Author to Launch 4-in-1 Books



When Fauci says US is out of coronavirus 'pandemic phase' - The Washington Post ...

... That pushed The Valley Weekly columnist-author tim allston - probably the world's first COVID-19 victim-turned-Victorious - to publish his experiences in print, digital, audio\*, and video book formats beginning in mid-July, the week following his 68th birthday, ...

... And to make The U.S. COVID-19 Crisis: What Experienced 2020 ... What Learned 2021 ... What Now 2022? available also as a fundraiser for charitable and nonprofit organizations, to recoup revenues lost during coronavirus' two-year pandemic phase.

**Why This Author?** A two-

time Amazon best-selling author, allston represents and intersects three of

the most vulnerable groups to COVID-19: people of color, males, and over 65.

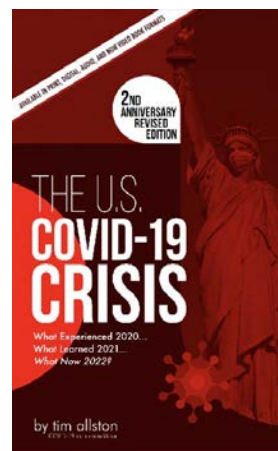
He tested COVID-19 positive in 2020, recovered successfully in 2021, and now shares his journey

and the lessons he learned. - against the backdrop of current events and news-

makers, and in the light of Biblical best practices.

Available for only a limited time as a 2-for-1 print(or digital)/audiobook combination, let The U.S. COVID-19 Crisis: What Experienced 2020 ... What Learned 2021 ... What Now 2022? become now your GPS for 2022 and beyond - written, narrated, and now made visual by this COVID-19 victim-turned-Victorious!

\*Want a "sneak preview" free audiobook version, to write an Amazon book review? For more information, visit [info@timallston.com](mailto:info@timallston.com).



## Local VP Joins Delta Ed Board

Karen Stanley has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Delta Research and Education Foundation.

Since its establishment in 1967, the Foundation has upheld its mission of identifying issues that affect Black women, their families, and communities of the African Diaspora, globally, and creating solutions through research, programing, and funding in support of charitable and educational programs of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and other collaborative organizations.

A vice president of Stanley Construction since 1995,

Ms. Stanley has been an active member of Delta Sigma Theta since 1983, and she has served in various capacities, including president, Buffalo Alumnae Chapter; vice president, Huntsville Alumnae Chapter; National Finance Committee member; and National Strategic Planning Committee member.



Stanley earned degrees in chemical engineering from Vanderbilt University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as well as an MBA from Harvard University.

## 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 House and Senate are in session this week. The House will take up 2 abortion-related bills: the first to legalize abortion services nationwide and the second to protect the right of women to cross state lines to seek abortion services. The House will also take up its \$850 billion Defense Authorization bill. The Senate this week will try to advance the nomination of Ohioan Steven Dettelbach to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), who has been closely questioned on his views on reinstating the assault weapons ban. The ATF has been without a Senate-confirmed director since 2015 (in September 2021 the White House withdrew the previous nomination of David Chipman); however, voting may be delayed because Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer tested positive for Covid over the weekend and will be absent from the Senate this week.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** Last Friday, President Biden issued an executive order creating a cabinet-level Interagency Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access to protect abortion access where it remains legal, including medication abortion and emergency contraception. On Monday, the President hosted an event celebrating the recently passed gun legislation and, at 5:00 p.m., revealed the first image from the \$10 billion Webb Space telescope in an event live streamed on NASA TV. On Tuesday, the President hosted a meeting with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (who skipped the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles last month in protest of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua not being invited). On Wednesday through Saturday, the President traveled to Israel, the West Bank, and Saudi Arabia.

3. **INFLATION REPORT.** On Wednesday, the Labor Department released its June inflation report, which was expected to show an 8.8% year-over-year increase. Last

Friday, the June jobs report showed that the economy added 372,000 jobs, which was 100,000 more than expected, although the number is in line with the 368,000 jobs created in April and 384,000 in May. The private sector has now regained its pre-pandemic number of jobs, while the public sector remains 664,000 jobs below February 2020. Average hourly earnings increased by 5.1% in the year through June, moderating slightly from 5.3% in the year through May, but nonetheless strong enough that experts predict that the Federal Reserve will call for another 75 basis-point interest-rate increase when the Federal Open Market Committee meets July 26-27 (matching the increase implemented in June).

4. **JANUARY 6 COMMITTEE.** The House January 6 Committee held a hearing on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., led by Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), to investigate any "convergence of interests" between the Trump White House and the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, the leadership of

which is currently being prosecuted by the Justice Department on seditious conspiracy cases with trials to begin in December 2022. Reuters reported that the committee would hold a 2nd hearing on Thursday evening (July 14).

5. **LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK.** Lawmakers will continue strategizing this week on how to advance their major priorities this summer as they face a barrage of deadlines. Two packages, a bipartisan legislation (H.R. 4521) to bolster competitiveness with China and a budget reconciliation bill covering

key Democratic priorities, are likely to dominate talks. After the August recess, lawmakers are faced with a September 30 deadline to extend government spending and several expiring programs.

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WE KNOW THE PEOPLE,  
PLACES, AND POLITICS

## NAAACC Meetings

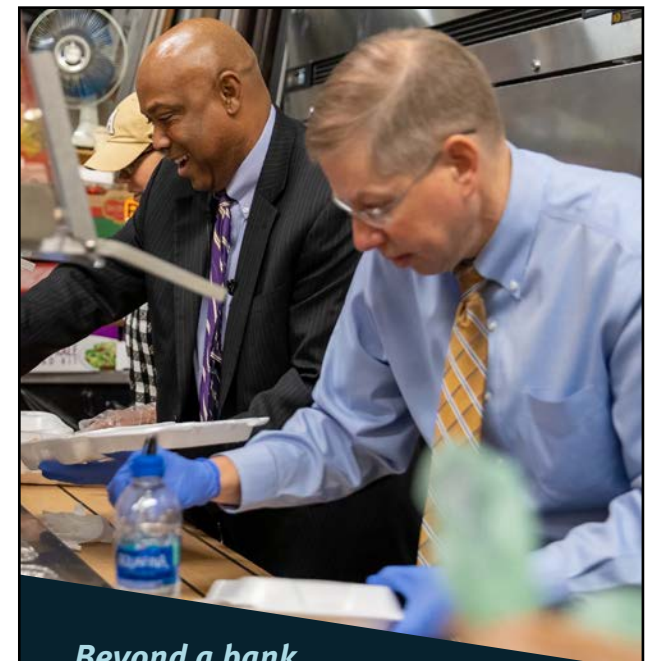
The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

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

## 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/HS-VTV](http://HuntsvilleAL.gov/HS-VTV) or on the City of Huntsville Facebook page (@huntsvillecity).

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

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# AAMU Facilitates Virtual Summer Cultural Program

Alabama A&M University successfully launched a recent two-week Summer 2022 Virtual Student International Program in Malaga, Spain & Salvador, Brazil: Business and Culture. The program was fully funded by U.S. Department of Education in partnership with the Center for Global Business (CGB).

The transformative and interactive 30-hour virtual program was provided by Brazil Cultural for seven students and two professors from AAMU and two students from the Instituto Cultural Steve Biko in Brazil. The seven AAMU undergraduate students were Akhia Floyd, Maken-

zie Griffin, Garrett Hicks, Nachaka Lizubuh, Khalid Smith, Ashton Turner (from College of Business & Public Affairs) and Dr. Bobweal O. Omontese, an MBA student and AAMU faculty member from the College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences. Dr. Xia Zhang, the College of Business & Public Affairs (COBPA), international program coordinator, participated and coordinated this two-week program. Dr. Reyna Esquivel-King, the assistant professor of history, assisted and participated in the second week of the program.

The course, led by Dr. Javier Escudero, Brazil

Cultural Director, explored the development and potential of the tourist, culture, and real estate industries in two cities, one in the Mediterranean (Málaga, Andalusia, Spain) and on in the Atlantic (Salvador, Bahia, Brazil), while looking at the historical, social, economic and cultural factors that have shaped those industries up to today.

There were presentations by Dr. Lucigleide Nascimento about Brazilian Economy; Dan Serradilla—History and Tourism in Spain; Gustavo García—Culture, Economy, Emigration and Real State in Spain; Tatiana Damasceno—What is Wrong Brazil

and Brazilian Culture and Entrepreneurship; Kayanara Leeb—the Cultural and Tourist Industries in Bahia; and Javier Escudero—Brazilian History and Culture, Spanish Culture.

The comparison between the European and the South American cities allowed participants to understand important issues related to colonization, development, migration and urbanization. The Alabama students demonstrated cultural openness & flexibility through engagement with local Brazilian counterparts and reflected on issues of race, privilege, identity and heritage.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

## VALLEY DEATHS



### NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

*Funeral service for MRS. IDA CORDELL (b. 1924) will be Friday, July 29, at 11 a.m. at First Seventh-day Adventist Church with Pastor Benjamin Jones officiating.*

*Graveside service for MISS SASHA JONES (b. 1992) was held Tuesday, July 12, at Triana Cemetery with Reverend Tremaine Davis officiating.*

*Funeral service for MRS. SANDRA JONES WARD was held Friday, July 8, at First Missionary Baptist Church with the Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, eulogist and the Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler, officiant.*

*Graveside service for MR. DAVAR THOMAS BURNETT (b. 1978) was held Thursday, July 7, at Faith Memorial Park with Pastor Vincent M. Leslie, eulogist.*

### ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

*Funeral service for MR. PAUL EDWARD WRIGHT (b. 1945) will be 9 a.m., Friday, July 15, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.).*

*Funeral service for MS. JEWELL F. LOGAN (b. 1930) was held Sunday, July 10, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.).*

*Graveside service for MR. IZIAH CHUNN (b. 1948) was held Saturday, July 9, in the Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor T.C. Johnson officiating.*

*Funeral service for REV. DR. SYLVESTER M. TRUSS (b. 1979) was held Saturday, July 9, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church (1919 Brandontown Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Dion Watkins as Pastor, Reverend Victor Lewis officiating, and Reverend Larry Davidson, Jr. as the eulogist.*

### SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

*Funeral services will be announced at a later date for PRINCESS AUBREY DAWSON (b. 2020).*

*Funeral service for MS. TERESA ANN MARTIN (b. 1963) was held Friday, July 8, at Serenity Funeral Home with Pastor Gary L. Crum Sr. of Ellwood Community Church (Selma, Ala.) officiating.*

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

## CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

### “DON’T FOCUS ON THE CRISIS”

Hebrews 10:35 tells us, “*So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.*”

You know, I believe that anytime we face a crisis situation in our lives, it's not unusual for us to lose our confidence. And when we lose our confidence, we lose our capability of doing what God has called us to do.

In this scripture, the writer of Hebrews is telling us, “not to throw away our confidence”. He is saying don't focus on the crisis but focus on Christ. Don't

focus on your circumstances, but focus on the one who can save you from your circumstances.

You see, one of the things that we all need to realize is that we may endure a “crisis” situation in our lives and we may lose people that we love, but don't lose your confidence.

I remember losing my mother while I was in training camp for the

New England Patriots. But I kept my confidence and still made the team that year.

I lost my wife Linda of thirty years, but I kept my confidence and went back to work, and began to preach God's word at the 8:30 a.m. praise and worship service at Lakeside United Methodist Church. I also wrote a daily devotional, “A

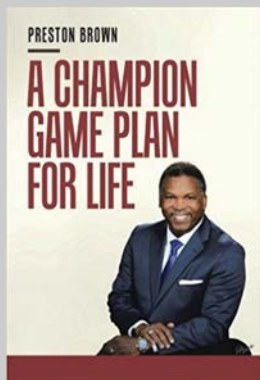
Champion Game Plan For Life.”

You see, I believe that God will give all of us a testimony from our test, if we don't give up. I also believe that we may lose a lot of things in life, but if we keep our confidence, God will show us a new day, a new



life, and a new direction. So, don't focus on the crisis and don't throw away your confidence, because it will be richly rewarded if we stay inside of God's good and perfect will for our lives ...

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. And ... make sure you purchase a copy of my book, “A Champion Game Plan for Life,” at amazon.com.





THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**Thru July 29**

Mae Jemison Jaguar Tennis  
Sponsor: Youth Development Association

Summer Tennis & Reading  
Camps

(Ages 5-18)

Beginners: \$160

Intermediate/Advanced:  
\$200

Contact: Coach Garrett

E-mail: y.d.a@att.net

**July 15**

Alabama A&M University  
"AAMU Day"

The World Games  
Birmingham, Ala.

3-9 p.m.

**July 23-24**

Spiritual Retreat (Conducted by Swami Sarvapriyananda of Vedanta Society of New York)

Sponsor: Hindu Cultural Center of North Alabama  
<https://tinyurl.com/2nwftcky>

**August 2**

"Your Life, Your Huntsville"

Monthly Forum

Sponsor: Councilman John Meredith

First Floor Chambers

City Hall

4 p.m.

**August 5-7**

DL Hughley

Comedian

Stand Up Live Huntsville

Huntsville, Ala.

**September 17**

Bulldog Football vs. Austin

Peay

Louis Crews Stadium

Alabama A&M University

2 p.m.

**October 1**

Bulldog Football vs. Bethune-Cookman

Louis Crews Stadium

Alabama A&M University  
2 p.m.

**October 4**

Concert

Earth, Wind & Fire

Orion Theater

[www.axs.com](http://www.axs.com)

**October 8**

Bulldog Football vs. Grambling State

Louis Crews Stadium

Alabama A&M University

1 p.m.

**November 12**

Gulf Coast Challenge

AAMU vs. Jackson State

Ladd-Peebles Stadium

Mobile, Ala.

**November 19**

Bulldog Football vs. Texas Southern

Louis Crews Stadium

Alabama A&M University

1 p.m.

**JULY 15 - FOREST**

**WHITAKER** - An American actor, producer, and director who has earned a reputation for intensive character study work for films such as Bird, The Crying Game, Platoon, Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai, The Great Debaters, The Butler, and Arrival. He has also appeared in blockbusters such as Black Panther as Zuri.

- [BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com)



## PowerShot

"The world can't tell you who you are. You've just got to figure out who you are and be there, for better or worse."

- Dave Chappelle



"Everything helps or hurts; everything adds to or takes away from someone else."

— Countee Cullen

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Scholars with Treasurer Tim Richmond (far left); Alpha Chapter President Henry Dickerson (2nd, r) and Board Chairman Gary T. Whitley, Jr. (far right).

## Alpha Education Foundation Honors 2022 Scholars

Huntsville's Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation recently awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to local students. The philanthropic arm of the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated recognized 16 scholars during its 2022 annual Scholarship Awards Presentation.

These recipients and their graduated schools are Morgann Allston, Huntsville Christian Academy; Dakari Battle, Jemison High School (HS); Jada Colley and Madisyn Graves, Lee HS; Bailey Duckett, Madison County HS; Alivia Eggleston

and Jackson Henderson, Clemens HS; Logan Gordon and Solomon Pitts, Hazel Green HS; Alyssa Jones, Buckhorn HS; Christopher March, Luke McCaulley, and Joshua Sanders, Sparkman HS; Salaam Nahasi and Zeda Sullivan, Columbia HS; and Daveone Cross, Drake State Community & Technical College.

Scholarships awarded to students from various schools across Madison County was the result of the funds raised during the foundation's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Unity Celebration.

Although the event was

virtual in 2021 and 2022, the Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation was fortunate to have well established corporate donors who continued to support the foundation in spite of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

For 2022, the Education Foundation received financial support from AT&T Alabama, Boeing, Google Fiber, Huntsville Committee of 100, Huntsville Hospital, Lockheed Martin, Redstone Federal Credit Union and Regions Bank.

The Corporate donors for 2022 were Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Alabama, Huntsville Utilities and

Cynthia Joiner (below, left) of Cynthia Joiner Real Estate Group. The Dr. R. Parker Griffith Family Foundation of Huntsville was the presenting corporate partner for 2022.

Miss Madisyn Graves (below, r) 2022 scholarship recipient of the Wilbert L. Brown Rising Star Scholarship and graduate of Huntsville's Lee High School, stated: "As a student preparing to attend Tennessee State University in the fall to major in nursing, receiving these scholarship funds will do much to further and sustain my educational experiences."

Presently, the Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation is led by its new chairman, Gary T. Whitley, Jr., following the untimely demise of its long-time chairman, the late Mr. Wilbert L. Brown of Huntsville, in early 2022.

(Photos by Anthony Gibson)



### "Want-to-preneurs": Get Ready for These "Roarin' 2020s"!\* "Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning" - Psalm 30:5

With proper awareness and then preparation temporary sorrows can become joy and happiness, declared the psalmist David.

Sounds like David must have been living right now - or maybe a century ago during the Roarin' 1920s.

As history often repeats itself, business aspirants ("want-to-preneurs") need to prepare themselves for the "Roarin' 2020s." Here we can experience increased consumerism, entrepreneurship, and women's political power reminiscent of the 1920s.



#### History on Our Side

1919 featured the worldwide pandemic, which killed 675,000 Americans. The Roarin' 20s, however, followed with its advancements in automobiles, electricity, and culture such as the Harlem Renaissance and the Jazz Age.

Yet, that decade ended with the 1929 stock market crash and the beginning of the 1930s Great Depression.

Currently, we are emerging slowly from the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic which has claimed 1,020,000 Americans. Shuttered businesses forced millions to return home - either as unemployed or telecommuters.

Public health concerns, reopening schools, and newfound freedom and related technologies for "home-work" are causing many to consider a once-closed dream: entrepreneurship.

"In 2020, there was an explosion in new business applications, reaching nearly 4.5 million by year's end," according to a February report by the Economic Innovation Group, a Washington DC think tank. There's an increase of 24.3% from 2019 and was the highest on record - 51% higher than the average from 2010 to 2019, <https://nwsdy.li/3vwuNay>.

#### Ready to "Mine Your Own Business"?

If you are one of those with an itch for freedom, creativity, and a leap of faith, then this present decade's made for you. History says that these "Roaring 2020s" will be your best chance to "mine your own business," a phrase from Rich Dad Poor Dad author Robert Kiyosaki.

The U.S. Small Business Administration's SCORE, the National Association for the Self-Employed, and your own public library system offer unlimited (free!) resources and training programs to help you act on your dream of becoming an entrepreneur.

Now is the perfect time to allow the weeping, sorrow, and pain of the 2020 pandemic crisis to now usher you into this Roarin' 2020s prosperity - before the next Great Depression.

\*An excerpt from tim allston's upcoming *The COVID-19 Crisis: What Experienced 2020 . . . What Learned 2021 . . . What Now 2022?* - soon to publish in print, digital, audio, and video book formats. Want to sample a free audiobook version? Contact me at [info@timallston.com](mailto:info@timallston.com).



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CALL 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## An Invitation and Metaphor

Matthew 11:29

John introduced Jesus as the Word, God, who became flesh and dwelt among us. As God the Son, He was part of the "us" who appears in creation, creating the heavens and the earth. Part of the heavens included what is known as The Milky Way, which contains an estimated 100-400 billion stars and a least that number of planets.



Issuing invitations requires communication, but how does one capable of creating worlds and people communicate in a way that a person can understand? The metaphor serves that purpose.

As you know, they compare two objects or concepts that have something in common. That first audience in Jesus' day that heard this invitation to "Come unto Me" was knowledgeable of what a yoke is. Yokes were placed on the necks of two animals that pulled a cart or plow. They kept them in step with each other so that no one animal would have to work harder than the other.

The invitation was to



those who "labor and were heavy laden." The promise was rest, achieved by the easiness of His yoke. In other words, when one walks with Jesus, He yokes

Himself to them and keeps them in step with the One who is the Way.

Those of us who grew up in the Black Church are familiar with metaphorical

language. "He's a battle-ax in the time of the battle, shelter in the time of the storm." "Lawyer in the courtroom." Finish it ...



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## This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, July 17, 2022

Fifth Sunday

After Pentecost

(Track 2 - Year C)

Genesis 18:1-10a

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Psalm 15

## MAYHEM IS EXPENSIVE. ALLSTATE IS NOT.



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

## Mrs. Alice Sams

Mrs. Alice Friend Sams was born in Madison County, Ala., where she attended public schools before earning undergraduate and MBA degrees from Alabama A&M University.

A graduate of the coveted Leadership Huntsville Madison County program in 2000, Sams serves as program director for Project FOCUS (Former Offenders Changing for Unconditional Success) under the auspices of the Madison County Commission District Six.

In that capacity, since 2009 she has assisted with job and housing placement, GED preparation, restoration of voting rights and pardons from the State Pardon and Parole Board. With partners, Project FOCUS provides workshops on anger management, financial stability, life skills, and counseling.

Sams is also a retiree of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, where she served for 25 years as contract specialist from 1982-2007. At NASA, she was chiefly responsible for soliciting bids and proposals, selecting vendors, negotiating, evaluating budgets and personnel assignment, which resulted in the awarding of purchase



orders, grants and multi-million dollar contracts in support of space and missile systems.

Her diverse career also includes 12 years of teaching middle and high school students, preparing lesson plans, using innovative instructional methods to improve student's functional academic levels, reporting to local and state educational offices and evaluating students at the beginning and end of each year. Sams also served as a liaison between the school and the Richland County Education Association.

Sams is no doubt known equally as well for her significant community involvement and civic engagement with various organizations and boards. She worked closely with the

Commissioner, Judge U. W. Clemon and the community on the Desegregation Consent Order with the Huntsville City Schools and Madison County Schools and helped prepare budgets with the state and NAACP offices and the Von Braun Lions Club.

She is a loyal member of First Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves as chairperson of the Benevolent Committee; secretary of the Bereavement Committee; and participates in the Singles Sunday School Class and other ministries. Sams is a member and past president of the Von Braun Lions Club and was the former District Governors' Secretary.

She is a member of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) Board of Directors; a local board member of the Selective Service System of the State of Alabama; a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and she is the recipient of numerous honors from prominent organizations.

Sams is the mother of a daughter, Donna, a son, Reginald; stepdaughter M. Jeneene; and grandchildren, Carla, Jalen, Mitchell and Victoria.

## Experiencing AAMU on a Virtual Plane

Alabama A&M University is one of only 10 U.S. colleges and universities accorded "metaversity" status through VictoryXR and the colossal support of Meta Immersive Learning.

While it may be hard to imagine another AAMU, just picture a digital campus twin that allows a Bulldog to take full courses on a metaversity campus that is an exact replica of The Hill.

"We know remote learning is exploding and we also know there's a

better way than the status quo," said Steve Grubbs, VictoryXR CEO. "A metaversity campus is the solution

that makes remote learning work for students and professors."

Through Meta Immersive Learning, Meta (formerly Facebook) is investing \$150M to help develop the next genera-



tion of metaverse creators, fund high quality immersive experiences that transform the way people learn, and increase access to learning through technology. VictoryXR is one of the funding recipients.

*"We make too much of that long groan  
which underlines the past."*

- Derek Walcott



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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](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valley-weeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valley-weeklyllc.com).





# Importance of Learning about Summer Travel Trends

(BPT) - As the temperature starts heating up and Covid restrictions continue to subside, travelers are amping up to take summer 2022 by storm. But what's on everybody's summer agenda? Viator, a Tripadvisor company and the world's largest travel experiences marketplace, knows where people are flocking and what they're doing once they get there.

According to a new travel trends report from Viator, these are the four biggest trends among travelers this summer:

## Making up for lost time

As more destinations open their borders and restrictions continue to ease in many places, consumers are tapping into the revenge travel trend. In fact, they are seeking out experiences in record numbers. Half of Americans and nearly 60% of Gen-Z and Millennials reported the ability to travel again as their biggest highlight of the year.

## Opting outside

After more than two years of lockdowns and life postponed, travelers booked outdoor experienc-

es in record numbers. The 10 fastest-growing experiences categories (and 18 of



the top 20) were all related to outdoor activities. In fact, nearly half (48%) of the experiences booked in 2021 were predominantly outdoors.

## Sticking closer to home

Nearly half (48%) of Americans said they sought out closer, more local experiences in the past year. In fact, all 10 of the fastest growing experiences by bookings are U.S.-based experiences (when compared to pre-pandemic demand). Experiences including the San Diego Harbor Cruise and Boston's Ghosts & Gravestones

Night-Time Trolley Tour grew by more than 700%.

## Water wins out

When you think of summer, you dream about lying on the beach near the water. But this year, Viator knows travelers want to experience the water. From 2019 to 2021, water sport-related experiences saw a 311% increase and cruises, sailing and water-tours saw a 122% growth. Beyond that, five of the 20 U.S.-based experiences named in the 2022 Viator Experience Awards were water-related activities.

With Americans spending 29% more on their average booking in 2022 than they did pre-pandemic, the

future of travel is looking bright this summer.

If you are looking to

take your travels beyond your own backyard this summer, Viator has compiled a list of the top ranked global experiences to try in 2022.



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*"When history is written as it ought to be written, it is the moderation and long patience of the masses at which men will wonder, not their ferocity."*  
- C.L.R. James

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