

# Coalition Aims for Voter/Census Engagement, p.3

FREE

Friday

August 7, 2020

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ValleyWeeklyllc.com

# Pastor Michael Rice on Grace, p. 4



Liz Smith, p. 4

*"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."*

- Mark Twain



## Huntsville Native Will Guide Police Council

The 10-member Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory Council (HPCAC) was created in 2010 (Ordinance 10-361) to improve the relationship and perception between Huntsville Police and the citizens of Huntsville.

According to a weekly communication tool from Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, HPCAC introduced its independent legal advisor to the public during a recent meeting of the Huntsville City Council.

Elizabeth Huntley will be assisting the HPCAC during

its review of police actions in early June.

Raised in Clanton, Ala., the Huntsville native is an attorney with Lightfoot, Franklin & White and recently worked with the City of Birmingham on police matters. HPCAC is accepting public input online through August 7 before beginning its internal review.

HPCAC works to strengthen bonds be-



tween the police department and the community, thereby ensuring equal protection and service for all citizens. The advisory council also recommends procedures, programs,

or legislation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Police Department and they work to keep the Chief of Police apprised of actions that create community concern.



**TUSKEGEE SCHOLARSHIP PARADE:** Enthusiastic members of the Tuskegee University Huntsville-Decatur Alumni Chapter awarded scholarships to area students returning to Tuskegee this fall. Picture (l-r) are: Kaylan Parham, Saige Thompson, Nakai Griffin and Sydney Jones. Behind the Tuskegee banner: Lamar Braxton, event coordinator and host.

## Johnson Legacy Center Nears Opening Date

The highly anticipated opening of the new Johnson Legacy Center is fast approaching. Mayor Battle led media on a tour of the new facility, which is scheduled to open this month.

Three years in the making, the \$5.3 million project is transforming portions of the former J.O. Johnson High School into a community hub for meetings, fitness and play.

The center features gathering spaces, new



futsal and volleyball courts, indoor rock climbing wall, weight room, locker rooms

and saunas, a Jaguar community room and more.

- HuntsvilleAl.gov

## TU Alums Hold Scholarship Parade for Area Students

A cluster of die-hard Golden Tigers converged upon the Madison, Ala., home of Tuskegee alumnus Lamar Braxton to welcome students from the Tennessee Valley area who are returning to Tuskegee.

Armed with music, snacks, that Ole Tuskegee Spirit, and ever-important scholarship dollars, the progeny of such African-American figures as Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver

lined the streets of a corner lot to cheer on the proud

additions to the 'Skegee Family. (Photos, Page 5)

The Valley Weekly

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# Washington in One Minute



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

1. The Senate returned to session Monday, but the House has recessed and advised Members that they will be given at least 24 hours' notice before the House is called back into session pending an agreement on Coronavirus Relief Bill #5. The House has further advised Members that the August Recess will not start until Congress passes the relief bill. Congressional Democratic leaders met again Monday with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows to try to reach an agreement on the coronavirus bill (a Saturday meeting

produced no deal).

2. This week, President Trump was expected to issue an executive order banning the Chinese-owned short video app TikTok (and Americans from working there), which is currently valued at \$50 billion and is reportedly in talks with Microsoft to sell its U.S. operation (the research firm Sensor Tower reports that TikTok has been downloaded 165 million times in the U.S. in the last 3 years and has about 70 million active monthly users). On Tuesday, the President held a signing ceremony for "The Great American Outdoors Act," which will permanently fund the Land and Water

Conservation Fund.

3. Over the weekend, the Republican National Committee announced that the vote on August 24 by GOP delegates in Charlotte, NC to nominate President Trump as their 2020 presidential candidate will be closed to the press. The vote will be limited to approximately 336 delegates casting proxy votes on behalf of the more than 2,500 official delegates, with alternate delegates and guests having been prohibited from attending. President Trump is not expected to give his nomination speech in Charlotte, although it has been reported that he may travel to Charlotte briefly to thank the delegates in a

private, closed press event.

4. The Washington Post reported on Sunday that Joe Biden has extended his vice-presidential search by as much as two weeks after initially saying he would make the pick by August 1. The Post also reported that Biden would interview "five or six finalists for the position" instead of narrowing his choice to the traditional shortlist of three candidates.

5. On Saturday, Newsweek reported that Democratic strategists, including former Clinton White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart, are urging Joe Biden not to participate in the 3 scheduled

debates with President Trump on September 29 (in Cleveland), October 7 (in Miami), and October 15 (in Nashville). The University of Notre Dame and the University of Michigan cancelled as hosts for the 1st and 2nd debates due to COVID-19 concerns.

6. Some higher education institutions are lowering the cost of attendance with many classes moving online and the campus experience of students diminished. As a result of the rising number of verified coronavirus cases across the country, many colleges are realizing that their initial plans to reopen for the fall will be replaced by vir-

tual learning. Institutions, students and families prefer in person classes over a majority of online courses. Administrators worry that students and families may be unwilling to pay regular tuition costs for a digital course load, or without a compelling campus experience. This will further jeopardize their enrollments, which currently remain uncertain.

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*"When one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear." - Rosa Parks*

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# Coalition Seeks to Increase Voter/Census Engagement

The Coalition for Justice Through Civic Engagement (CJCE) and The Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links, Inc., sponsored an outside event to help the Huntsville community verify voter registration material and complete Census 2020 forms. The event included music, food, speakers and social dis-

tancing safety measures. CJCE member organizations include the following: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter; The Ivy Center Foundation of Huntsville, Madison County; The Links Incorporated, Greater Huntsville Madison



County; Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministe-

rial Fellowship; 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville Madison County; National Coalition of 100 Black Women of Greater Huntsville Madison County; United Women of Color; Huntsville Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Omega Psi Phi, Inc., Psi

Kappa Kappa Chapter; Lift Our Vote; Vision 2020; New South Coalition; No More Dirty, Inc.; and Another Chance Ministries. For further information, contact Patrick V. Grayson at (256) 797-4138 or email Patrick@KGAStrategic.com.

## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

**“WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?”**

1 John 3: 10 says, *This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.*



When I was growing up, my great grandmother would always ask me this question: “Whose side are you on?” In other words, Are you on God's side or the devil's side? To which I would reply, “I am on God's side.” You see, I believe that she understood that the struggle that we all face between good and evil is real, and that is why she asked the question.

Living in the state of Alabama, it is inevitable that you will be asked the question, “Whose side are you on?” In other words, do you pull for Alabama or do you pull for Auburn? And the reason for the question is that when these two teams play, it is one of the great rivalries of college football. So when these games are played, there is a lot at stake ... things like bragging rights for a whole year. But, unfortunately, there is much more at stake when it comes to the decision to follow Jesus or to follow the devil,

because it will decide where you will spend eternity. You see, we all need to realize that we are being influenced by God or by the devil.

Now the problem that we have when we decide to follow the devil is that we end up with a lot of broken promises. For example, the devil will promise us pleasure, but he brings us misery. He promises us fun, but in the long run he brings us guilt and shame. He promises us life, but he brings death. 1 John 3:8 says the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. But we have to choose whose side we are on. Because God will not interfere with our free will. The choice is ours. But once we make the decision to follow Jesus, he will strengthen us toward the direction that he wants us to take. Remember Jesus will always meet us where we are but He refuses to leave us that way. When we choose to follow Christ, we will have all the “bragging rights” that we need, because we can say with full confidence that we are children of God ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

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## Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Mother Elizabeth Smith

A native of Hinesville, Ga., Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Smith received the Bachelor of Arts degree in both business education and elementary education from her alma mater, Savannah State University.

She demonstrates her dedication for people in the community through volunteerism for government, church and public missions in order to improve her city, state and the world. Her compassion for human kind and leadership in numerous organizations demonstrates her upstanding and phenomenal character. Hard work does not deter her at all. She served as Board President for Wellstone Behavioral Health, Madison County, where she conducted business operations, supervised

planning, personnel and finances.

She currently serves on the governing board, seeking to improve the lives of Madison County families with mental health and addiction challenges through prevention, treatment, and the ultimate goal of recovery. Liz, as she is affectionately known, strives to help support individuals in getting back into the mainstream of society and live improved, productive, happy, and independent lives.

She is a loyal member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, and she has always striven to give back as much or more than she has received. She also is a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), where she serves as a mentor to young women currently enrolled at



J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, Calhoun Community College, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and Alabama A&M University. She is also currently serving as the President of the Rolling Hills Elementary School PTA.

Smith is the mother of two sons, Reginald and Brian. She has one daughter-in-law, Pamela. She also has one grandson, Alexander.

**AUGUST 7 - RALPH BUNCHE - Born in Detroit, Mich., Bunche was an American political scientists, academic and diplomat who became the first person of color to receive a Nobel Peace Prize (1950) for his late 1940s mediation in Israel. -**

*BlackinTime.info*



## Called 2 Preach

by Pastor/Founder Michael D. Rice  
Grace Gethsemane Mission Church

### “Good But Lost”

Acts 10:22

One of the most prominent ideas when speaking about who gets to go to heaven is the idea that *good people* get to go to heaven and *bad people* go to hell.

There have been both movies and television shows that import this same theme. There is even a situation comedy show that is called *The Good*

*Place.*

However, the Bible does not teach that. Paul says in Ephesians chapter two that it is *by grace through faith* that one is saved. He goes on to say

specifically that it is *not of works, lest anyone should boast.* This same Paul wrote to the Corinthian church in the first chapter of that first letter and said that God does not allow

*any flesh to glory in His presence.*

The story found in Acts 10 tells of Cornelius who was described this way: *a just man, one who fears God and has a good*

*reputation among all the nation of the Jews.* This was a *good man but lost.* His story included a vision that he had where he was instructed by an angel to send for Peter, who also had a vision that instructed him to go to Cornelius' home and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

God's providence brought he and Peter together and Cornelius heard the Gospel preached to him and he believed, and he was saved, also his family. His goodness did not save him; his belief in the gospel did.

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*“To make our way, we must have firm resolve, persistence, tenacity. We must gear ourselves to work hard all the way. We can never let up.”*

*- Ralph Bunche*



## Local Tuskegee Chapter Scholarship Parade

Saturday, August 1, 2020

Madison, Ala. - 3 p.m.



# How Communities Are Connecting During COVID-19

(BPT) - During the uncertainty of the COVID-19 crisis, people are searching for ways to connect with experts, co-workers, friends, neighbors and their community. They are accomplishing this by using technology including virtual meetings, webinars and conference call services.

Everyone is making sacrifices during this time and adjusting their regular routines and habits. TownSq, an all-in-one communication app used in the community management industry, has analyzed the platform's trends during the crisis.

**Residents take guidelines seriously.** The app's analysis found that access-controlled communities' guest invitations dropped more than 50% in the first week alone. Residents are forgoing seeing friends and family and canceling events to ensure they are doing their part to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19.

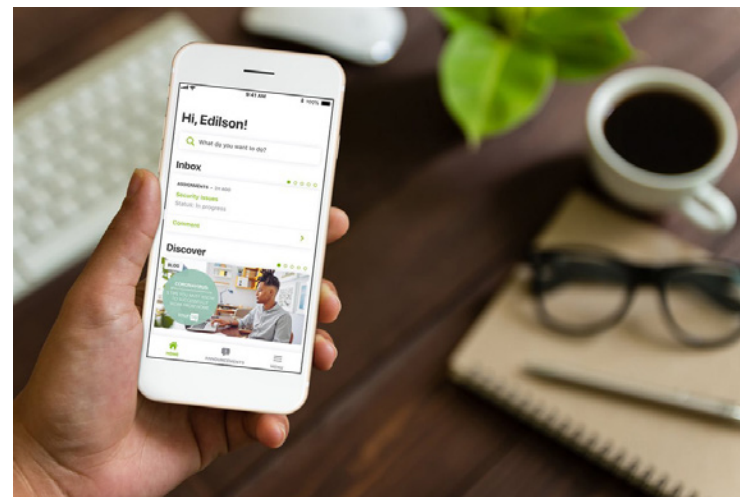
Another interesting statistic is the drastic increase in package deliveries to communities. As COVID-19 concerns began growing in late February and early March, deliveries to communities started to increase to levels generally seen around the holiday season. Homeowners are social distancing while maintaining necessary supplies and avoiding crowded grocery stores and markets.

### Neighbors help neighbors.

The World Health Organization has reported that certain groups have an elevated risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19, including people over 65 years of age and those with underlying medical conditions.

As a result, solidarity is growing organically in communities. Younger residents are offering to help with things like picking up groceries or other essentials for residents that are in the high-risk group. That shows an altruistic desire for people to naturally want to help those that need it most during these times.

**Technology assists in effective communication.** As more strict guidelines get put into place, and more people are operating from home, individuals and companies are looking for new tools to help improve communication during the crisis. In communities and HOAs, this essential need is equally present; effective communication is the key to making sure every resident is informed properly and up to date on important community news. The app has



seen an increased trend of board members and managers publishing 92% more critical announcements and documents during this time.

"Announcement growth is directly tied to managers and boards making relevant information available to all residents in real-time. The need for urgent news has increased, so we are seeing the results of the platform accommodating that need," said Luis Lafer-Sousa of TownSq.

**Virtual tools facilitate connections.** From the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the app has tracked a dramatic increase in platform engagement. Residents have taken social distancing seriously with a 45% decrease in visitor requests and an uptick in package deliveries, neighbors helping neighbors, and vital communications from boards

of directors to residents.

"We see this exponential growth as a strong sign of effective communication among our customers. It shows that people are looking for new ways to connect and help each other during this time," said Lafer-Sousa. "Communication between residents is surging with an outpouring of support for those most at-risk in communities. For homeowners, they understand the importance of community connection and recognize the value of virtual tools to facilitate those connections."

It is crucial to stay connected during times of crisis. That is why the app is offering features like real-time updates, a resident forum, targeted communications and more free for 90 days. To learn more, visit <https://learn.townsq.io/90-day-free-trial>.

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# Valley Deaths

## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME -

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Funeral service for MR. DAVIE HARGROVE (b. 1958) was held Wednesday, August 5, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Graveside service for MRS. PATRICIA HAWKINS-WORD was held Monday, August 3, at Faith Memorial Park.

Graveside service for MS. PRISCILLA MATTHEWS (b. 1969) was held Saturday, August 1, at Valley View Memorial Gardens with Elder Dennis Green officiating.

Graveside service for MS. DOROTHY GREEN (b. 1932) was held Saturday, August 1, at Union Cemetery with Pastor Walter Peavy and Pastor Robert Peavy officiating.

**ROYAL FUNERAL HOME - 4315 Oakwood Avenue -  
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Graveside service for MRS. ELNORA MITCHELL (b. 1942) will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, August 7, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Pastor Endia Scruggs officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. CATHERINE JOYCE JONES (b. 1953) was held Thursday, August 6, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Rev. Gregory Scott officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. ANNIE D. JOHNSON (b. 1945) was held Tuesday, August 4, at Thatch-Mann Cemetery with Pastor Marcus Gilbert officiating.

Graveside service for MR. HOWARD LEE "Lorenzo" HORTON (b. 1963) was held Tuesday, August 4, at Saint James Cemetery (2950 Jeff Road Harvest, Ala.) with Pastor Ricky Sykes officiating.

Funeral service for MS. LATISHA RENE HUTTON was held Monday, August 3, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Elder Dave Draper, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for MR. SANCHEZ LESLIE (b. 1998) was held Sunday, August 2, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

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Services were being planned at newspaper deadline for the following: MR. CHRISTOPHER PERRY, MRS. JOE WHITE-STANLEY, MS. GRETA FERRER, MS. ANDREA BREZZELL and MR. TYKEEM FRANKLIN.



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## Redstone FCU Now Taking Applications for Small Business PPP Loans

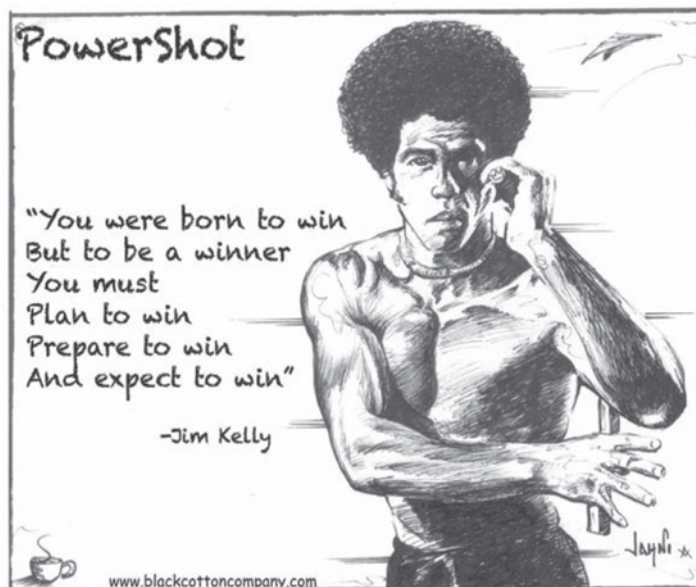
Redstone Federal Credit Union continues to accept applications for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and applauds the application deadline extension which gives small business owners until August 8 to apply.

Redstone business members have already been approved for over \$31 million in loans since the process began. More than 1,000 businesses have benefited from the program.

Master's Touch Barber Shop is one of those businesses. Lee Lamb, owner, said after not having an income for two months during the pandemic shutdown, he was ecstatic to get his loan approved.

Redstone's business lending staff walked him through the paperwork and answered his questions. Contact [businesslending3@redfcu.org](mailto:businesslending3@redfcu.org) for more information.

Contact Redstone's Business Solutions team at [businesslending3@redfcu.org](mailto:businesslending3@redfcu.org) for more information.



## Tennessee Valley Calendar of Events

### August 6

The Price Is Right Live  
Von Braun Center  
Concert Hall - 8-11 p.m.

### August 9 - October 4

"The Red Clay Survey: 2020  
Exhibition of Contemporary  
Southern Art"  
Huth, Boeing, Salmon, Haws &  
Chan Galleries  
Huntsville Museum of Art

### August 9

Minister Fred II's No More Dirty  
Radio Show  
103.1 FM/92.1 FM WEUPSun-  
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[nomoredirty.org](http://nomoredirty.org)

### August 13

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tivate)  
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### August 17

Classes Begin at Alabama A&M  
University

### August 21-22

Gridiron Men's Conference  
Propst Arena  
Von Braun Center  
Friday: 7-10 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### August 22

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration  
Program  
Von Braun Center - North Hall  
- 7 a.m.

Drive-In Movie at  
Mid-City District  
Sponsored by Google Fiber

### August 23

Huntsville Community Drum-  
Line  
"iDrum Summer Rhythms &  
Beats" - 3 p.m.

### August 28-29

Family Campout in the Garden  
Individual: \$30  
Family of Two: \$60  
Family of Four: \$110  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW  
Huntsville, Ala.

### September 4-October 2

Alabama Autumn Skies  
U.S. Space and Rocket Center  
One Tranquility Base  
Huntsville, Ala. - 7 p.m.

### September 18-19

Comedian Eddie Griffin  
Stand Up Live Huntsville  
[huntsville.standuplive.com](http://huntsville.standuplive.com)

## Perspectives on EGO-holism

by tim allston

### "It's the Black Voters, Stupid" Q: Who should be Biden's VP?

"And the Lord God said, 'It is not good that man be alone; I will make an help meet for him'" - Genesis 2:18, KJV

At the end of Creation Week, God saw that all of his creatures were paired and balanced except Adam. Therefore, he created for him a help meet, Eve, to help him meet the challenge of governing the earth.

Since Joe Biden announced that he'll pick a woman running mate, multiple media outlets suggest that he should pick a woman who balances him as white, male and old-school Establishment.

Bottom line: Who, short of Barack or Michelle Obama, will turn out the largest numbers of Black voters - that sizable taken-for-granted Democratic Party bloc?

Let's look at possible candidates and what they have to offer. Here's my scorecard, alphabetically:



Prospect	Pros	Cons
Stacy Abrams (GA)	Democratic National Committee's (DNC) choice for Dems' response to Trump's 2019 State of the Union (SOTU) message	Lost closely-contested 2018 gubernatorial race in red state; should've run for current GA Senate seat opening; Q: Will her active campaigning for VP spot hurt her?
Val Demings (FL)	Impressive showing as House manager in Senate impeachment hearings; former big-city (Orlando) police chief; Florida crucial in November election	Not as well-known or highly profiled
Kamala Harris (CA)	Former primary contender; possesses "non-threatening look"; 1st HBCU alum contender; elected statewide twice in most populous state	Ran poor, unfocused primary campaign; Biden doesn't need her to win CA; good choice for Atty. General or 1st African American (AA) female on Supreme Court, a Biden promise!
Amy Klobuchar (MN)	Impressive primary candidate showing; strong Midwest appeal	Q: Would an all-white Dem ticket take AAs for granted, again?
Elizabeth Warren (MA)	Strong national profile, primary contender	Q: Would an all-white Dem ticket take AAs for granted, again?
Gretchen Whitmer (MI)	Governor of crucial Midwestern state; Dems' 2020 SOTU respondent; said Biden should pick woman of color <a href="https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2020-04-03/michigan-gretchen-whitmer-biden-trump-coronavirus">https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2020-04-03/michigan-gretchen-whitmer-biden-trump-coronavirus</a>	Q: Would an all-white Dem ticket take AAs for granted, again?

Who would you select as Biden's running mate, to win the White House? Let me know at [tim@GetEgoHelpNow.org](mailto:tim@GetEgoHelpNow.org). Thanks.

Life Coach tim allston is the author of the free book, *7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else,"* downloadable now at [www.GetEgoHelpNow.org](http://www.GetEgoHelpNow.org).

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