

"People are trapped in history and history is trapped in them." - James Baldwin

Family, Friends & Church Celebrate RJF Elder Effie Gaines' 90th Birthday

The 90th birthday celebration for Rosetta James

Foundation Elder Effie Gaines was held recently at St. Bartley P.B. Church activity center.

"It means the world to me to have



you celebrate my birthday with me," said Mrs. Gaines

to her friends and family. She also thanked her daughter Gay for making the special day a memorable one.

In her usual fashion, Mrs. Gaines blessed her guests with a song and piano performance.



Alums Contribute to NYC Band Trip

Members of the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter (HPAC) of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association contributed \$3,000 toward the massive effort to send AAMU's Marching Maroon and White Band to New York City for the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in November.

Alumni and other supporters have been chipping away for nearly a year at

Alberta ASA Unorreity 1106. Hantoule Progressive Alminis Chapter The Scholarship (Bed Date) Manual Manual Chapter 1001. 9-11-23 1001. 9-1

the more than \$500,000 goal to send the noted band to the Big Apple.

Pictured above at the September 11 check presentation at the Knight Center were (l-r) Atty. Michael Walker, HPAC president; Director of Bands Carlton J. Wright; Dr. Daniel K. Wims, president, AAMU; and Jamal Ali, vice president for marketing, communication and advancement, AAMU.

Also on hand to witness the event were a dozen chapter members who later participated in HPAC's monthly alumni meeting.

Photo by J. Saintjones

Drake State Prez Joins TVA's RERC



Dr. Patricia Sims, president of Drake State Community and Technical College, has been selected to join the 6th term of the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Regional Energy Resource Council (RERC) through 2025. This two-year appointment highlights Dr. Sims' dedication to sustainable energy practices and community engagement.

The RERC, comprising representatives from various sectors, including academia, regional government, TVA customers, and advocacy groups, plays a pivotal role in advising TVA on energy

resource management strategies that align with diverse objectives and values.

"As we look toward a more sustainable future, I am honored to contribute to the RERC's mission in guiding TVA's energy resource management," said Dr. Patricia Sims.

DOE Awards College of Ag More Than \$1.5 Million

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) selected two AAMU proposals for funding under the DOE's Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce (RENEW) Program Initiative. Two proposals from the Alabama A&M's Department of Natural Resources, and Environmental Sciences (NRES) in the College of Agricultural,

Life, and Natural Resources (CALNS) were awarded a total of \$1,557,280.

The proposal titled "Strengthening Education and Research Capacity for Bioenergy Science at Alabama A&M University through a Combination of Education, Research and Partnerships," was led and

Continued on Page 8



alley Weekly

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Huntsville Approves Over \$350K in Grants for Local Organizations

The City of Huntsville will soon administer grant funds to seven local organizations through a program with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), according to huntsvilleal.gov..

The City Council voted unanimously September 14 to allow the City's Community Development Office to distribute Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership funds to the following organiza-

Alabama Non-Violent Offenders Organization -\$15,500

Funds will provide support for operating costs and administrative salaries of personnel overseeing the Non-Violent Re-Entry Program.

Boys and Girls Clubs of North Alabama - \$148,134 Funds will provide support

The 2024 Youth of the Year Luncheon

for administrative salaries of personnel responsible for the education, preventive, leadership, recreational, and organized sports program.

ENABLE Madison County - \$20,000

Funds will be used to pay costs of administrative salaries for personnel overseeing the Emergency Home Repair and Disability Modifications Program.

Family Services Center -\$27,000

Funds will provide Certified HUD housing counseling to clients eligible the Down Payment Assistance Program.

First Stop - \$15,000

Funds will provide support for administrative salaries

of personnel responsible for case management services to the unsheltered population through the Street Outreach Program.

Harris Home for Children - \$15,000

Funds will pay cost of operating the Foster Care and Child Placement Program.

HATCH - \$100,000

Funds will pay operating costs, administrative salaries and professional services contributing to the Economic and Workforce Development Program.

Village of Promise -\$15,000

Funds will pay costs of administrative salaries overseeing the Family Connections Program.



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VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Funeral service for MR. DERWUN J. KENNEMER (b. 1980) was held Saturday, September 16, with Elder Dennis Green officiating.

Funeral service for MR. THEODIS MONTGOMERY (b. 1961) was held Saturday, September 16, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. JOHN EDWARD ("POPEYE") BLACKBURN, SR. (b. 1950) was held Monday, September 11, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with the Reverend Larry Gordon officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW

Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481- www.royalfh.com
Funeral service for MRS. CAROLYN ANN MITCHELL
(b. 1939) was held Monday, September 18, at the Cherokee
Christian Center (240 W. Main Street, Centre, Ala.) with
Pastor Gerald Wright officiating.

Funeral service for MR. RODNEY "KNOCK" NACOSTE (b. 1959) was held Sunday, September 17, at the James Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (814 Lucas Street, Athens, Ala.) with Pastor Dexter Jackson as eulogist and Pastor Perry Torain officiating.

Memorial service for MRS. MARY L. WARD (b. 1932) was held Saturday, September 16, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Minister Carrie Pugh officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MAGGIE BRADLEY SMITH (b. 1934) was held Saturday, September 16, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor James Miller, Jr. officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693 www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Funeral service will be announced for Mr. JAMES CATTAGE (b. 1950) at a later date. Please visit the website.

Celebration of Life service for MR. JEFFERY "Jiffy" GAR-NER (b. 1972) was held Sunday, September 17, at Syler Tabernacle.

Celebration of Life service for MR. ARICE ELLISON (b. 1960) was held Saturday, September 16, at Saint Luke Christian church, 1800 Sparkman Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.

AAMU's Computer Science Reaccredited

The Alabama A&M University B.S. degree program in computer science has received reaccreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the recognized accreditor of college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering and engineering technology.

The oldest computer science program in the State of Alabama and one of the oldest in the nation, AAMU received the maximum term of ABET Accreditation through September of 2029 after meeting the rigorous standards of the Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) of ABET.

"Our faculty are excited to offer a program that prepares graduates to compete in the global market," said John D. Jones, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

ABET's voluntary peerreview process is highly respected because it adds critical value to academic programs in the technical disciplines, where quality, precision and safety are of the utmost importance.

"This accreditation is a widely recognized sign of quality," said Dr. Zhengtao Deng, Dean of the AAMU College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences. "This is an exciting achievement by students, faculty, and administration in the program. Students and colleagues around the world will continue to see that Alabama A&M University exemplifies excellence through this program."

Visit www.ABET.org.



MEETING NEEDS

Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."

You know, I believe when God speaks of meeting needs, it is not about material needs, or the need to be prosperous. I believe that when God meets our needs, it is designed to direct us toward his good and perfect will for our lives.

I also believe that God will meet our needs with a need. In other words, when I felt the need to be comforted, God met that need by providing me with someone that needed comforting. When I felt the need for prayer, God met that need by providing me with someone that

I needed to pray for. And, when I was standing in the need of a blessing, God met that need by providing me with someone that I could be a blessing to.

You see, God

It con from what know They

You see, God is in the business of meeting needs with needs. Everything that He does is designed to meet our

needs. But so often we have the wrong expectations for having our needs met. And, perhaps it's because our motivations are all wrong.

For example, when we expect our needs to be supplied by "worldly" resources, we will always come up short. It will rob you of your joy because you "expected" God to bless you. But I heard someone say that "when our joy is low, entitlement is high." It comes



from not thanking God for what we already have. God knows our "real needs." They come from a heart

that wants to
please God. They
don't come from
the desires of this
world. So once
we get our hearts
right, that will
affect our motivation for whatever
needs that we want
God to supply ...

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. Make sure you purchase a copy of my books *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.



A New Generation Of Service

No matter whether you claim a slave by purchase or capture, the title is bad. They who claim to own their fellow-men, look down into the pit and forget the justice that should rule the world.

- Zeno of Citium



HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru September 23

"Fire Becomes Her"
Art Exhibition by Ace
Lemley
Lowe Mills ARTS & Entertainment
UAH Project Space
2211 Seminole Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
5-7 p.m.

September 20

Interfaith Mission Service 2023 Annual Celebration and Awards Conference Trinity United Methodist Church - Wesley Hall 607 Airport Road SW Huntsville, Ala. 6-7:30 p.m.

September 21

Bulldog Football vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff Louis Crews Stadium Alabama A&M University 6:30 p.m.

September 24

Jazz in the Park
Big Spring Park East
5 p.m. – Angela Bryant
Brown;
6 p.m. – Marqueal Jordan;

and

7:30 p.m. – Ben Tankard

September 28

Homecoming Golf Tournament Alabama A&M University

ON THIS DAY



On September 22, 1950, Ralph Bunche received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the late 1940s to assist in the mediation in Palestine. He also assisted in the formation and administration of the United Nations. Later, in 1963, he received the Medal of Freedom from President John F. Kennedy.

- bet.com

Alumni Association, Inc. Huntsville Country Club 7 a.m.

"Your future is created by what you actually do today, not what you plan to do tomorrow." I.T. Moore





You can't hold a man down without staying down with him.

- Booker T. Washington

Scenes from Daughter of Zion Women of Worship Conference Saturday, September 9, 2023 - Westin Hotel



"Your Limitations Are in Your Mind ..."



Your limitations are in vour mind ...

Success or failure. There is nothing in between. As often stated, "Failure starts where success ends." You can be successful every day because success is simply accomplishing goals. It doesn't matter whether they are big or small. All wins count. There are no limitations.

Your limitations are in your mind!

You control every goal you set and whether or not you get there. You cannot control the arrival time:



however, you can control whether or not you slow that time down. You're not limited. Who told you that?

So, how do you do that? It all starts in your mind. Each decision you make or not. Each move you make, or not. Limitations only exist if you impose them on yourself. It seems simple,

right?

It is. **Emotional** intelligence, motivation, discipline, mindfulness, and goals are all things you need

to be aware of. Dive into self-awareness.

Start today!

With each step, all mind-related, you are in control. Each decision and action brings you closer or further away from your

You can do this! Get started this moment. Remove one limitation a day. Remember, small goals count.

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it.

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-

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

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

NAAACC Meetings

4. "Wearing (verse #8), the power forward her husband Abraham - 'cause Abraham is recorded as having made Father of Judaism;

the first three-pointer: Father of Christianity; and Father of Islam! And



5. At the center, wearing (verse #7) is Noah - he not only built the first arena for the Tigers, the Lions, the Ravens, the Hawks, and the Pelicans; preserved and restored the Human League; but, in basketball jargon, the reason that Abraham knew where to shoot his three-pointer from was that Noah created the arc - a.k.a the A-R-K!

Q: Who's on your Hall of Fame of Faith starting lineup? Your parents? Grandmother? Local faith leader? Boy or Girl Scout troop leader? Did you even make your own lineup? Why or why not?

Let's discuss it on my website, www.timallston.com.

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



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GOSPEL:

Matthew 20:1-16

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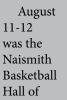




Perspectives on **God Views Current News**

NBA's 2023 Hall of Famers vs. the Bible's Hall of Fame "Starting Five"

by Tim Allston











Dirk Nowitzki, Tony Parker, Coach Gregg Popovich, and Dwyane Wade.

Some 2000 years ago, the Bible announced its "Hall of Fame of Faith" in the Book of Hebrews, chapter 11. In basketball lingo, let's announce the Bible's starting

- 1. "Wearing (verse #4) at point guard representing the Martyrs for God franchise, is Abel. He took one for the team, as his brother Cain committed humankind's first offensive foul
- 2. "Wearing (verse #5) the shooting guard is Enoch. He was un-defeated, and his hang time and vertical leap allowed him to rise to heaven and never return to earth!
- 3. "Representing diversity and gender-inclusion, at small forward wearing (verse #11) is Sarah - eligible for the Old-Timers Game, but known more for both her cross-over dribble (from disbelief and laughing at God, to belief and celebration with birth of son Isaac), as well as for her alley-oop pass to . . .



Friends and Family Pay Tribute to Rachel & James Green at 50th Anniversary September 9, 2023 - The Omega Center - Huntsville, Alabama





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

Ms. Lettye Boyd

Lettye A. Boyd, a native of Auburn, Ala., is the daughter of the late Lois D. Boyd and the late J. D. Boyd. She graduated from Lee **County Training** School in 1957, attending historic Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., from 1957-58.

In 196l, however, she received the B.S. degree in Elementary Education and Music from Alabama

A&M University. She pursued additional studies at Alabama A&M University, Grove City College, Virginia State University and Jackson State University.

Boyd's 33-year professional career includes student teacher, 2nd Grade & Music, 1961, Cherry Street Elementary School, Decatur, Ala.; teacher, 2nd Grade & Music, 1961-63, Laney Elementary School, Waverly Hall, Ga; teacher, Music & Other, 1963-1970, Councill Senior High School, formerly Councill Training School, Normal, Ala.; teacher, Music & Other, Four Sum-



mers, Madison County Headstart Program, Madison County Schools; and teacher, Music & Other, 1970-93, Madison Cross Roads School, Toney, Ala., (established the school's first organized music program).

Ms. Boyd's numerous other skills and interests are exemplified by her service as Choral Director, 1978-80, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville. Ala.; Minister of Music, 1980-2000, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; Director, 1988, Alabama A&M University Alumni Choir,

Normal, Ala.; Choral Director, 2000-Present, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; and Office Manager/Bookkeeper (1993-2011) Rocket City Charter Service, Harvest, Ala.

She is affiliated with several professional, community and civic organizations, among them the Alabama Educa-

tion Association, Alabama State Teacher's Association, Madison County Teacher's Association, Georgia Teacher's Association, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville Christian Service Singers, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Organized the Chapter's First Choral Ensemble), and many others.

Ms. Boyd's honors and awards received for her choral performances, music education and other contributions to music are legion.

Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2023

September 30 (Homecoming)

October 7 (Gulf Coast Challenge)

Tuskegee University

Louis Crews Stadium Huntsville, Ala. - 2 p.m.

Ladd-Peebles Stadium

September 2 (L, 47-13) @Vanderbilt University FirstBank Stadium Nashville, Tenn. - 6 p.m.

September 9 (Crews Classic) Lane College (W, 51-13) **Louis Crews Stadium**

September 16

UAPB

@Southern University

A.W. Mumford Stadium

Baton Rouge, La. - 6 p.m.

Jackson State University Huntsville, Ala. - 6 p.m. Mobile, Ala. - 4 p.m.

October 14

Eddie G. Robinson Memorial Stadium

September 21 (Thursday) **Louis Crews Stadium** Huntsville, Ala.- 6:30 p.m.

@Grambling State Grambling, La. - 3 p.m.

October 28 (Magic City Classic) Alabama State Legion Field

Birmingham, Ala. - 2:30 p.m.

November 4 Florida A&M Louis Crews Stadium Huntsville, Ala. - 1 p.m.

November 11 @Bethune-Cookman Daytona Stadium Daytona Beach, Fla. - 12 p.m.

November 16 (Thursday) Mississippi Valley State **Louis Crews Stadium** Huntsville, Ala. - 6 p.m.

The people must know before they can act, and there is no educator to compare with the press. - Ida B. Wells

SEPTEMBER 22 - LAWRENCE GILLIARD, JR.

- Lawrence Gilliard Jr. is an American character actor who has appeared in films, television series and theatre. He portrayed D'Angelo Barksdale on the HBO drama series The Wire, a role which earned him critical acclaim. He is also known for his role as Bob Stookey in the AMC horror drama The Walking Dead. He is in the cast of David Simon's HBO TV series, The Deuce, that premiered in September 2017. Gilliard is also a stage actor. He received positive reviews for his role of Booth in a production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play,

Topdog/Underdog. He joined The Walking Dead cast as a regular, playing - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com **Bob Stookey.**



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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. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valleyweeklyllc.com.

How to Make Your Valley Home Less Vulnerable to Calamities

(BPT) - With heat waves, wildfires, droughts, hurricanes and more breaking records seemingly year after year - it's impossible to ignore the impact of severe weather and natural disasters across the United States. Without proper planning and preparation, you may be leaving yourself, your family and your property susceptible to damage or harm.

Consider the massive damage storms can cause to communities. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported more than \$165 billion in damages from weather-related disasters in 2022 alone, a \$20 billion increase from the 2021 estimates.

The National Fire Protection Association also reported that roughly 343,100 home fires occur per year, resulting in \$7.6 billion in total property damage - most often started by simple everyday activities like cooking.

Knowing homes can be vulnerable to weather incidents and other accidents, it's more important than ever to plan and invest in dependable solutions that can help keep your family and property safe.

In recognition of National Preparedness Month this September, The Master Lock Company, a trusted name in security for over 100 years, is spotlighting common mistakes people make when it comes to home emergency planning to help provide peace of mind and safeguard everything worth protecting.

Mistake #1: Misunderstanding disaster risk in your area

Different types of severe weather require different preparation, making it imperative to identify which disasters your community is most at-risk for and plan accordingly. Some weather patterns have also changed over the years, meaning you may be vulnerable to new climate events you haven't considered in the past. A little research can go a long way when it comes to the safety of you and your home.

Mistake #2: Not having a family fire plan

Be fire smart by verifying your home contains the right number of smoke alarms and make sure to check them annually. Everyone in the household should rehearse your fire escape plan at least once to get familiar with the sound of the alarm, exit routes from each room and the agreed-upon family meeting spot, located outside the home at a safe distance.



Mistake #3: Forgetting to safely store important documents and valuables

When evacuating during a fire or other immediate emergency, every second counts and no time should be wasted grabbing items like passports, birth certificates, jewelry or family mementos. By investing in a dependable, highquality safe that can withstand fire and water damage, such as the SentrySafe Next Generation Fire Safe, you can leave with peace of mind that your valuables are safe and sound. However, if your community is prone to more gradual disasters like wildfires that are forecasted days in advance and allow time for evacuation, consider the SentrySafe Fire Bag for portable fire protection. Designed to hold small items like passports, birth

certificates and extra cash, the fire bag provides lightweight, convenient fire-resistant storage so you can easily grab your valuables and go.

Mistake #4: Ignoring storm warnings

If you know a storm is coming, don't make the mistake of ignoring the alert until your area is affected. Store lawn furniture, pots and other loose items in a secure location. Close and lock windows

and shutters. For disasters like hurricanes that are monitored in advance, check if nearby trees should be trimmed to prevent property damage and reduce post-storm debris. Storm warnings also present an opportunity to plan whether it's safer to stay home or evacuate, and gather necessary items as needed.

Mistake #5: Not preparing an emergency "go kit" ahead of time

Being proactive is essential when preparing for unexpected emergencies, and the earlier you can prepare, the better. Though taking initiative to gather necessities before storm seasons begin is ideal, there are also situations when local officials provide advance notice in the days leading up to severe weather like hurricanes. Either way, have an emergency "go kit"

in case you need to evacuate your home in a hurry. This "go kit" should contain medical supplies, food, water and other essentials to ensure your household's basic needs are met.

Mistake #6: Overlooking physical home security

Some severe weather may require you to evacuate your home at the drop of a hat. Convenient, seamless security solutions like the Master Lock Bluetooth* Portable Lock Box manages access even if you're not there, allowing you to let in safety personnel and protect your property from unwanted visitors. Simply use your smartphone to manage your lock with the Master Lock Vault Home iOS and Android apps.

For more information, visit insights.masterlock.com.

DOE Awards College of Ag More Than \$1.5 Million

Continued from Page 1

submitted by Dr. Ernst Cebert PI, and co-PIs Dr. Xianyan Kuang and Dr. Qunying Yuan, in collaboration with Dr. John Vogel and Dr. Sharon Greenblum of the DOE Joint Genome Institute (JGI), Berkeley, CA; Dr. Andrew Leakey of the Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation (CABBI)/University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL); and Dr. Kankshita Swaminathan of HudsonAlpha (HA) Institute of Biotechnology,

Huntsville, AL.

The proposal titled, "Applied Geospatial Datascience Initiative for Urban Climate Change Studies (AGDI-UCCS)" submitted and led by Dr. Ranjani W. Kulawardhana (PI) and co-PI Dr. Wubishet Tadesse, was in collaboration with the two National Laboratories: Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Oak Ridge, TN; and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Richland, WA. Collaborators from

the two National Laboratories: Dr. Melissa R Dumas and Dr. Jiafu Mao of the ORNL and Dr. Duli Chand and Dr. Samson Hagos of the PNNL will work with Dr. Kulawardhana's team, focusing primarily on urban geospatial research applications to provide experiential learning, scientific research and geospatial training opportunities to AAMU undergraduate and graduate students.

