



Who's My Neighbor? - p. 3

Friday
September 30, 2022
Vol. 9, No. 4
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Josephine Scruggs

"If you are silent about your pain, they'll kill you and say you enjoyed it." - Zora Neale Hurston

Greater Huntsville Chapter Celebrates 25 Years

On September 20, 2022, the Greater Huntsville Chapter (AL) of The Links, Incorporated celebrated its 25th Anniversary and kicked-off its year-long celebration of Friendship and Service.

On Thursday, September 22, Greater Huntsville held a celebratory dinner at the Huntsville Country Club and recognized its Charter Members for their vision in establishing The Links, Incorporated in the North Alabama community. Under the current leadership of President Sharon H. Butler and the Chapter's 44 members, Greater Huntsville has successfully executed programs aligned with the organization's national and area initiatives to include Secure the Bag – Writing Your Legacy, Links in Pink Breast Cancer Education and Prevention Program, and its Weekend Scholars Program for area high school students.



25th Anniversary! Greater Huntsville Chapter, The Links Incorporated recently celebrated 25 years of friendship and service. Above, more than 30 elegant members pose for an Anthony Gibson photo at the Huntsville Country Club last week. Sharon H. Butler serves as 2020-2022 chapter president. [Submitted by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.]

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Links, Incorporated is the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organization with more than 16,000 professional women of African descent in 292 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Bahamas, and the United Kingdom.

The Greater Huntsville

(AL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated was chartered on September 20, 1997. The chapter's service area includes Madison, Limestone, and Morgan Counties. Notable members of The Links, Incorporated in the Greater Huntsville Chapter include: Representative Laura Hall; Physician, Dr. Vivian Aboko-Cole Hicks; Alabama A&M Professor and Board Trustee, Dr. Jeanette Jones; and Retired Judge, M. Lynn Sherrod.



OU Plans Holy Land Tour for Summer 2023

Oakwood University and Breath of Life are partnering to sponsor a 2023 Holy Land Tour from June 2-11, with a Tel Aviv port of entry. Services will include buffet breakfast and dinner at each hotel. During the day, participants will have a modern bus with Wi-Fi and air conditioning system, with an expert guide in English, who will make persons travel with their imagination to the places that marked biblical history. There will also be a theologian who will make this trip a purely spiritual adventure. Plan now to attend this life-changing event.

Read Madison County Encourages Literacy

Willowbrook Baptist Church is heading up the Rise to Read Program and needs volunteers. Visit www.readmadisoncounty.org for more details.



Read Madison County

Legacy Center Set to Launch "Community Clinics"

The Legacy Center, in partnership with the Huntsville Housing Authority, Alabama AHEC, and Huntsville Hospital, announces that the on-site Johnson Towers "Legacy Resource Clinic" will begin providing assistance with navigating resources and care coordination. Transportation and a traditional clinic will be included beginning in November. Contact Joy@LiveYourLegacyHere.com for further information regarding guardianship oversight.

The Valley Weekly

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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.** On Monday, the House and Senate were out in observance of the Rosh Hashanah holiday, which ended Tuesday evening. On Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., the Senate voted on a 60-vote motion to proceed to the stopgap FY2023 funding resolution (which also contained \$12 billion in additional Ukraine aid) to keep the federal government open through Dec. 16, when the new fiscal year starts on Oct. 1. The measure will at first contain Sen. Manchin's energy permitting language (to expedite approvals for oil and gas pipelines), but, if the motion fails, the Senate is expected to move to a version without the Manchin language. The funding resolution will be taken up by the House after action in the Senate. The House may also this week take up a "no stock trading bill" to ban Members of Congress, senior government officials and Supreme Court justices – and their spouses and dependent children – from investing

in securities, commodities, futures, and cryptocurrencies (investments in diversified mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, widely held investment funds and U.S. Treasury or state and local government bills, notes or bonds would be allowed).

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Monday, President Biden hosted the 2021 World Series champion Atlanta Braves at the White House. On Tuesday, the President was scheduled to visit Fort Lauderdale and Orlando, FL, but the trip was cancelled due to the approach of Hurricane Ian (on Saturday, the President approved a Florida Emergency Declaration due to the storm). On Wednesday, he delivered remarks at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health and then convened a 2-day summit for the leaders of 12 Pacific Island nations in Washington (to counter the growing influence of China). On Friday, the President and First Lady will host the first-ever White House Rosh Hashanah reception. Vice President Harris on Monday led a U.S. delegation

to Japan to attend the Tuesday funeral of slain former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and then visited South Korea.

3. **JAN. 6 COMMITTEE HEARING.** On Wednesday, the House January 6 Committee held its next hearing at 1:00 p.m. (witnesses and topics were not released). CNN reported last week that conservative activist Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, has agreed to be interviewed by the committee in the coming weeks regarding her role in the attempt to stop the presidential electoral count.

4. **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION REFORM.** The House voted last Wednesday 229-203 (with 9 Republicans joining all Democrats) to pass the Presidential Election Reform Act (by Reps. Lofgren, D-CA & Cheney, R-WY) to make it harder for Members of Congress to raise objections to a state's electoral votes by imposing a requirement that 1/3 of the Members of the House and Senate would need to object (a change from current law which requires only 1 lawmaker from each body to object). On Tuesday, the Senate Rules Committee held a markup session on the Senate's version of the bill, the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act (by Sens. Manchin, D-WV & Collins, R-ME), which requires only 1/5 of the Members of the House and Senate to object to contest the votes. The Senate

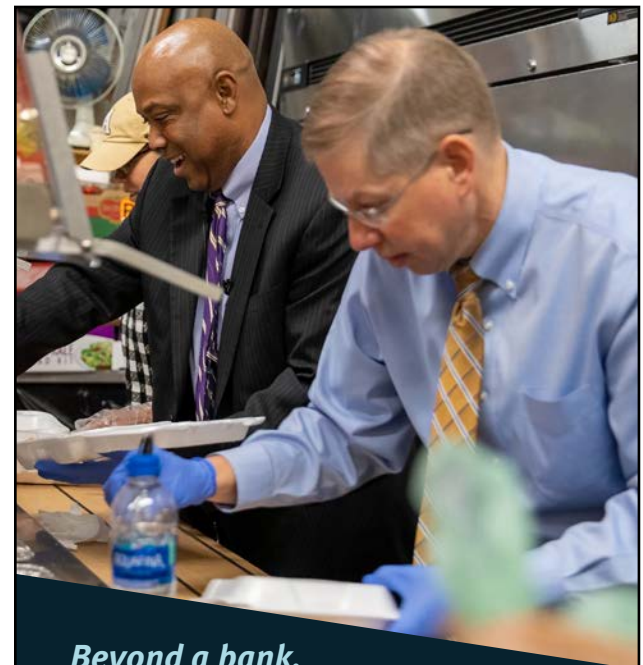
bill has already attracted 10 GOP sponsors.

5. **ARTEMIS 1 LAUNCH DELAYED.** Last Saturday, NASA canceled the planned Tuesday (27 Sept) launch of the Artemis 1 mission due to the expected impact of Hurricane Ian. According to USA Today, NASA will likely move the Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft back to the Vehicle Assembly Building.

6. **COMMUNITY COLLEGE.** On Last Thursday and Friday, Hamm Consulting Group attended the American Association of Community Colleges Advocates in Action Conference in Washington,

D.C. We joined community college leaders, key House and Senate Education Committee staff, Department of Education officials and other DC-based higher education experts to discuss strategies to examine critical issues facing community colleges, advance higher education policy, and connect with key Capitol Hill and Administration staff.

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Contract Approved for Transfer Station

The City of Huntsville is committed to improving and growing its public transportation system with the construction of a new transit transfer station.

The Huntsville City Council voted last week to allow Mayor Tommy Battle to enter into an agree-

ment with Consolidated Construction Company to build the 3,800-square-foot facility at 521 Pratt Ave. The site of the new station is adjacent to the current facility on Church Street.


The project was made possible by a \$12.5 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration,



which will cover 80% of the cost with the City funding the remainder.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW
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Funeral service for MR. LAVONTE' JEFFERSON (b. 1998) was held Wednesday, September 21, at Saint Luke Christian Church with Pastor T. C. Johnson officiating.

Funeral service for MOTHER DORA L. COX (b. 1921) was held Sunday, September 18, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Leroy Caudle, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for MR. WENDELL NANCE (b. 1964) was held Friday, September 9, at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Timothy Rainey officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MOTHER ALBERTA M. JONES (b. 1922) was held Saturday, September 24, at Union Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (3126 Nevel Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Edward Anderson officiating.

Funeral service for DR. SHAWNDA COTTON (b. 1970) was held Friday, September 23, at the Oakwood University Seventh-Day Adventist Church (5500 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Debleaire Snell officiating.

Funeral service for MS. ERNESTINE FLAGG (b. 1927) was held Wednesday, September 21, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Chaplain DJ Allen officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. ALICE BRADLEY CAUDLE (b. 1928) was held Sunday, September 18, at the New Hope Cemetery #2 (28520 Wall Street, Madison, Ala.) with Reverend Columbus Waddle officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JERRY WINFORD JOLLY, SR., was held Saturday, September 17, at the Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church (599 Brock Road, Brownsboro, Ala.) with Reverend Dennis Green officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CORTEZ D. CLARK (b. 1990) was held Saturday, September 17, at the St. Luke Christian Church (1800 Sparkman Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor TC Johnson officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MS. CECILIA BUNGE (b. 1980) will be announced at a later date.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

In Luke 10:27, it says: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,”* and, *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* It goes on to say in vs 29: *“And who is my neighbor?”*

You know, when Jesus tells this parable of the Good Samaritan, it is in response to one of the most important questions of all. What should I do

to inherit eternal life? Now this question is a test from a Jewish teacher that wanted to “trap” Jesus with his answer. You see, back then and even now there was a lot of profiling going on. Now to profile means to predict the capabilities of a certain subgroup of people or to group people into a certain category, like the Samaritans.

Today, we live in a time when people can also be so judgmental based on a person’s skin color, financial status or social

influence.

Now, we should know that these characteristics are not a good barometer when it comes to loving one another, because our ability to love one another should be based on a command that Jesus gives us in this scripture and that command is to love your neighbor as yourself.

So, Jesus tells this parable that has an unexpected ending. Remember, after a man had been beaten and robbed, he was passed over by a Priest and then a Levite, but Jesus tells them that of all the people in the world to help this man, it ends up being a Samaritan, despised by Jews. You



see, the moral of this story is to be careful how we judge people, because you never know from whom your blessing will come. They could be Black, White, Asian or Samaritan ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.



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*“If you look at what you have in life, you’ll always have more.
If you look at what you don’t have in life, you’ll never have enough.”*

- Oprah Winfrey

AAMU Alumna Chairs State's Higher Education Commission

Alabama A&M University was 100 years old by the time it was granted authorization to form its own Board of Trustees in 1975, in effect giving the institution its own voice. Prior to that landmark year, Dr. Richard D. Morrison, AAMU's fifth president, had been able to meet with the state's education power brokers only twice in a span of 22 years.

Thirty years following the formation of AAMU's Board of Trustees, a young and ambitious Miranda Bouldin-Frost would not only earn her degree in logistics at AAMU, but she would ultimately emerge as the founder and CEO of LogiCore, a Huntsville-based logistics and engineering firm. Now, just a few years shy of its 150th anniversary, AAMU boasts an alumna who serves as board chair of the 12-member Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

"I am looking forward to continuing relationship building with the institutions throughout the state," commented Bouldin-Frost. "As the coordinating board for Alabama's public two-year and four-year schools, it is important to have open dialogue about issues facing higher education and the tools that are needed to ensure student success. I think my past experience in working with volunteer boards in various leadership capacities will be an asset."

The AAMU alumna admitted that she has always been "education and community-minded," with a knack for combining and utilizing her own degrees and interest in the value of education to provide "an unbiased view of academic programs sponsored by institutions." Bouldin-Frost also noted that as a business owner, she



understands the importance of the relationship between education and the business community.

Indeed, Bouldin-Frost has been a commissioner on the board, representing Congressional District five, since her appointment by former Governor Robert Bentley in 2015. Dr. James E. "Jim" Purcell is ACHE's current executive director and, for the last five years, the native Alabamian has been responsible for carrying out the organization's day-to-day operations and strategic plan.

"I served on the board committee that hired Dr. Purcell in 2017," Bouldin-Frost recalled. "He has brought 30 years of higher education expertise from other states to Alabama. He has been forthright in keeping the board apprised of important issues, and several of the initiatives that he has used previously have been successfully implemented at

ACHE."

One of the key initiatives slated for championing by the ACHE board will be the "All in Alabama" campaign that will entice the state's college graduates to launch and maintain their careers in Alabama.

Bouldin-Frost's own life provides the perfect script for the endeavor. Also an Alabama native, she attended Alabama public schools before pursuing an undergraduate degree at Alabama A&M. She then anchored her career in the Huntsville area, where she has become a corporate fixture and has successfully reached back to help several young men and women.

"The All in Alabama campaign is a must for Alabama's continued economic growth," said Bouldin-Frost. "As a business owner, I can say first-hand that finding qualified employees is a top priority for both small and large businesses." She went on to express excitement

about the opportunities that will benefit students and employers through the All in Alabama initiative.

"The campaign will truly be ALL inclusive," Bouldin-Frost emphasized. "It is inclusive for students entering the workforce (Retain); past graduates who have left the state and are encouraged to return (Recall); and those who started but stopped their higher education pursuit (Re-Engage). It will be a boost for job seekers and employers, as well as the state as a whole. I look forward to promoting the campaign throughout the state."

A previous ACHE initiative that she is proud to have played a role in facilitating is the Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP), which Bouldin-Frost describes as a loan repayment program for K-12 math, science or computer science teachers.

"There is a particular emphasis on underserved areas

to ensure that students have access to quality classroom instruction," she explained. "We have seen consistent increases in student aid funding for five years. Also, the Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP) is administered through ACHE, and we lobby each year to increase student funding in ACHE's budget."

Continuing to move ACHE forward, however, requires a team effort, and Bouldin-Frost is appreciative of the mentorship she has received toward that end from Stan Pylant, general manager of WHNT-TV 19 in Huntsville, Ala. "Stan has been instrumental as an advocate for higher education for the State of Alabama and has been very helpful during my navigation as a commissioner." She also praised the leadership of Purcell, Margaret Gunter and "the entire ACHE" team for "working tirelessly communicating the needs of the state."

Although she is confident that Alabama has a top-notch

higher education system that prepares its students for the workforce, Bouldin-Frost also expects the issue of affordability to emerge center stage during her tenure.

"We are all aware that an education comes with a price tag, and it is a pretty hefty one in Alabama," said the administrator and entrepreneur. "Tuition increases are taxing Alabama families, and we have seen tuition rise alongside two straight years of record funding from the Education Trust Fund."

Nonetheless, ACHE's All in Alabama Initiative will remain squarely focused on overall industry needs and aligning those opportunities with students seeking employment, stated Bouldin-Frost, one half of ACHE's first female chair/vice chair team. "The campaign will involve institutional participation from career centers that are working with students seeking internships and full-time careers."

by Jerome Saintjones

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

<p>September 29 Wreath Laying Ceremony Alabama A&M University The Block - 11 a.m.</p> <p>Amy Grant Mark C. Smith Concert Hall Von Braun Center Huntsville, Ala.-7:30 p.m.</p> <p>September 30 Alumni Day Party <i>Featuring:</i> Lyfe Jennings and</p>	<p>Vivian Green Alabama A&M University The Quad - 4 p.m.</p> <p>October 1 Homecoming Parade Campus Alabama A&M University - 8 a.m.</p> <p>Rocket City Octane Auto Show 2022 South Hall Von Braun Center</p>
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Lessons from the NFL's only Perfect Coach

"But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize, . . ." - Philippians 3:13,14.

Paul here is advising the Philippians to pursue Christlike-ness with a singular focus. Only by disregarding the past and stretching themselves toward the future, will the sought-after prize be received.

More recently, we've learned this strategy from both the Don and the John.

From the Don . . .

Fifty years ago, Don Shula became the only coach to lead his National Football League team to an undefeated regular season and a Super Bowl victory.

Sports enthusiasts will point to his 1972-73 Miami Dolphins' 17-0 season as his highest achievement; however, others of us will recount his 24-hour Rule as his even greater legacy.

Whether in victory or defeat, Shula allowed his players and coaching staff only a 24-hour window to celebrate victory or bemoan defeat;

the next day mandated leaving the past behind, to focus on the next game.



. . . To the John

On May 28, 2011, Pastor Dr. John Nixon, Jr.

preached a calm, yet in-my-face sermon at Huntsville's First Seventh-day Adventist Church. "God Wants to Do a New Thing" followed the standard three-point homiletic structure.

While I don't recall the third point, Nixon's first two points could've emerged from Shula's playbook:

First, let go of your negative pasts. Simple enough, no argument here. But the second point was a head-scratcher:

Let go of your positive pasts. Really?

To illustrate, he spoke of his newfound sport, golf. One of the toughest things to let go, he shared, was that last great fair-way shot or putt. "Too often, I'll dwell on that last great shot, to the detriment of my next shot - or even my next outing!" confessed Nixon.

In order to move forward, Nixon concluded, we need to let go of both the negative and positive pasts.

And Now to You, . . .

Are you often either basking too long in a past achievement - or sulking over a recent setback - that you are in danger of not moving forward successfully?

Yes? Then stop right now, break the habit and follow the Don and the John.

. . . And then, invite me to your Super Bowl!

Huntsville City 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.

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.

Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2022

Sept. 1	at UAB	B'ham	7PM
Sept. 10	at Troy	Vet	6PM
Sept. 17	vs. AUSTIN PEAY		2PM
Sept. 24	at FAMU		5PM
Oct. 1	HOMEcoming	(vs. Bethune-Cookman)	2PM
Oct. 8	vs. Grambling		1PM
Oct. 16	at UAPB (St. Louis)	River City Classic	3PM
Oct. 29	vs. Alabama State	Magic City Classic	2:30PM
Nov. 3	at MVSU		6:30PM
Nov. 12	vs. Jackson State	Gulf Coast Challenge	TBA
Nov. 19	vs. Texas Southern		1PM
Dec. 3	SWAC Championship		



AAMU's Carnegie Building Receives Funding

Alabama A&M University (AAMU) has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. National Parks Service for the Phase I Restoration and Renovation of Carnegie Hall Library.

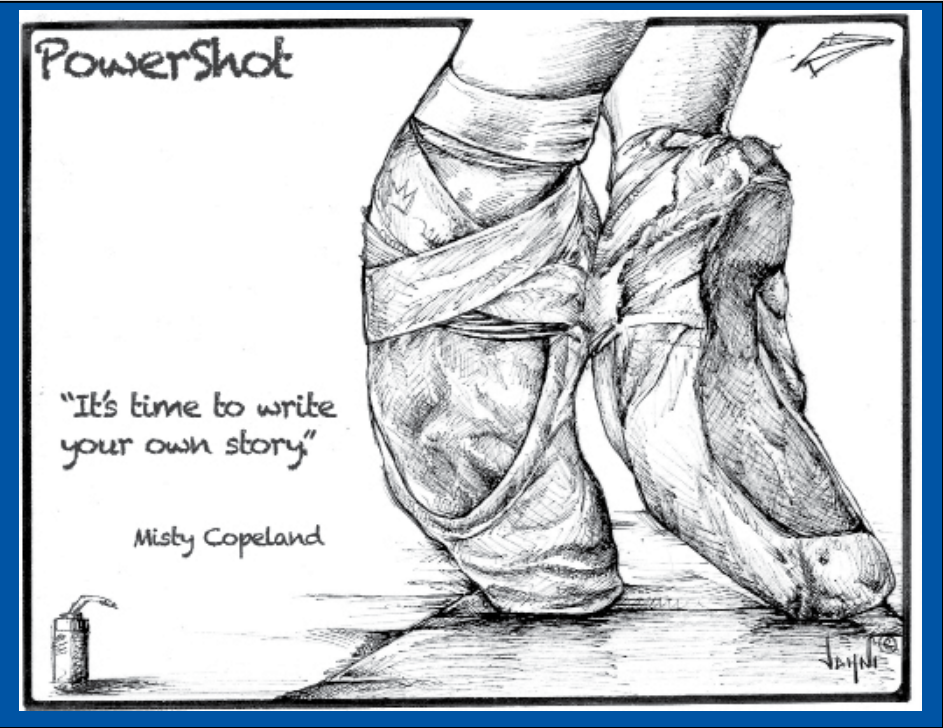
The AAMU project team is led by Dr. Xiaoqing (Cathy) Qian (left), executive director of research and sponsored programs, the principal investigator and project director. Dr. Lynda Batiste, interim vice president of business and finance (above right), will

serve as co-principal investigator. Dr. Majed Dweik (center) is vice president for research and economic development.

Carnegie Hall Library is one of 11 Neoclassical Revival buildings that showcases a national trend of campus building design. Rebuilt in 1906 after being destroyed by fire, it is believed to be the oldest extant building on the university's campus, retains a high level of integrity, and contributes to the Alabama

A&M University Historic District.

"AAMU is excited about this award and the opportunity to preserve this significant structure," said Dr. Qian. "We are grateful for the support and assistance from the Huntsville Historic Foundation, the City of Huntsville, the Normal Historic District Preservation Association, Senator Tommy Tuberville and Congressman Mo Brooks."



SEPTEMBER 30 - CISSY

HOUSTON - Emily "Cissy" Houston (née Drinkard) is an American soul and gospel singer. After a successful career singing backup for such artists as Roy Hamilton, Dionne Warwick, Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin, Houston embarked on a solo career, winning two Grammy Awards for her work. Houston is the mother of singer Whitney Houston, aunt of singers Dionne Warwick and Dee Dee Warwick, and cousin of opera singer Leontyne Price. - *BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com*



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

Mrs. Josephine Scruggs

First Lady Josephine Scruggs is the daughter of the late Reverend Troy D. and Bettie Stewart. She is the wife of the Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs (former pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., and former president of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.).

Sister Scruggs served as the administrator for the First Missionary Baptist Church Child Development Center and Academy. Prior to that position, she served as the Assistant Administrator for the CDCA. She taught in the Metropolitan Public Schools of Nashville, Tenn., for 25 years.

She earned her B.S. and M.A. degrees in health, physical education and recreation from Tennessee State University. She is affiliated with the following professional organizations, community boards and committees: MNEA; NEA; TEA; Retired Teacher Association; YMCA CITY PROGRAM; Phi Delta Kappa; NAACP; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Partnership for a Drug-Free Community; Board Member of Girl Scouts of America; Madison County Day Care Board; and Rotarian Club.

She co-chaired the drafting

and the implementation of the Family Life and AIDS Education Curriculum for the State of Tennessee; was one of three persons in the video on AIDS Education in the Workplace; was named Teacher of the Year, 1980; HOSPICE Volunteer (patient care); and served as a facilitator for children ages 3-18 at the Caring House and First Missionary Baptist Church (which helps children that are dealing with the death of a loved one).

She has served as a presenter for the following seminars/workshops: Christian Charm (girls 12-18), Image/Health Tips, Image of a Christian Young Lady, North East Wing-Deacons & Trustee's Wives; The Black Church Meeting the College Students' Needs; Women's Day Speaker in Alabama, Tennessee, and Michigan; Clues/Tips on Being a Pastor's/Minister's Wife Today; Black History Speaker at local city and county elementary schools; AIDS Education and Drug Education presenter; Parenting Classes at the Seminole Service Center; Image Consultant (Making a First Impression); Wedding Consultant/Director (the Ultimate Event); coached basketball, track and golf for 20 years and started the first



Band Boosters Club at Whites Creek High School and Tennessee State University. Sister Scruggs is the recipient of several awards, but the one that she is most proud of is the Teacher of the Year award. She believes she is at her best when helping others. She has worked tirelessly with underprivileged children and has supported the ongoing Sickle Cell effort. With all of the above, she still has time for attending the various activities of her grandchildren, reading, cross-stitching, collecting "All God's Children," word search puzzles, and visiting the sick and shut-in.

Together, she and Rev. Scruggs are the proud parents of a son, the Reverend Morris (Marty) Tipton, Jr., (Melody) and a daughter, Jennifer Scruggs, and three grandchildren.



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This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, October 2
Seventeenth Sunday
After Pentecost

(Track 2 - Year C)
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10
Psalm 37:1-10

"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

Supporting the Next Generation of Small-Business Owners

(BPT) - In school, students are learning new skills that will help them achieve their dreams. For a growing number of them, these dreams include owning their own business.

Small businesses are an important part of the American economy and have accounted for two out of every three jobs added in the past 25 years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Investing in budding entrepreneurs today will help create strong small businesses in the future.

One way students learn about what it's like to be a small-business owner is through Junior Achievement, an organization that works to provide school-aged children with lessons in financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entre-



preneurship. Because Junior Achievement educators directly work with students in communities across the country, they have unique insight into ways to support the next generation of small-business owners.

In fact, according to a Junior Achievement survey, nearly 9 out of 10 (86%) teens indicated they had some level of interest in starting their own business. These students may

decide to start their own business after graduation or bring their entrepreneurial ambitions into their college endeavors.

Schools provide important lessons about the skills and drive needed to own a business, but learning doesn't stop when the last school bell rings. Role models in the community can also significantly make a positive impact in forging a path for future small-busi-

ness owners.

Engage kids. If you have children of your own or friends with children, ask them about their entrepreneurial interests. Tell them about your reasons for supporting small businesses and take them to these stores in your community. Oftentimes the owners are present, and if they aren't too busy, are happy to discuss their experiences.

Mentor and hire interns.

If you own a small business yourself, consider hiring students and interns. This can help you during busy seasons while also exposing young adults to what it's like to run a small business. If developing a hiring program like this doesn't work for you, consider being a mentor instead. Your local busi-

ness association or college would likely love volunteers and you'll feel good about making a difference.

Support businesses making an impact.

Put your money where it matters by shopping at businesses that are helping entrepreneurs. For example, the Start Small, Grow Big program by The UPS Store is designed to support future small-business owners and entrepreneurs by enabling customers across their network of 5,100+ locations to donate to Junior Achievement USA upon checkout. All donations benefit Junior Achievement programs in the communities in which they are received. Learn more at TheUPSSStore.com/StartSmall.

Start an entrepreneurial

project. Whether part of a school assignment or just for fun, consider ways children can get a taste of what it's like to own a small business by choosing an age-appropriate project you can assist them with. You might help young kids run a yard sale or lemonade stand. Adolescents might start an online storefront for their arts and crafts, or perhaps for their tutoring or childcare services. Whatever the project, talk about goals, budgeting, customer service and other important components of a good business plan.

The future is bright as the next generation of small-business owners are learning important life skills and dreaming big. With these steps, you can help ensure their early visions empower them in the future.

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