

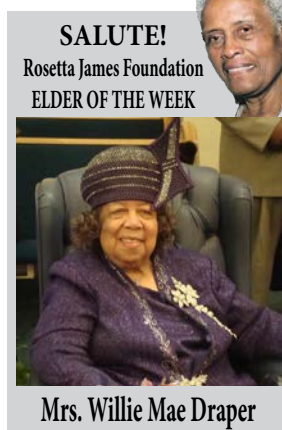
AAMU, FICO Join Forces on Analytics Challenge - p. 8

FREE



'Hidden Figure' - p. 5

Friday
October 6, 2023
Vol. 10, No. 5
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK

Mrs. Willie Mae Draper



"The role of the artist is to make the revolution irresistible." - Toni Cade Bambara

Loss of Health Provider Having Low Impact on State

With the announcement of the closure of a large home health direct care service provider in Alabama, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG) wants to let clients in its region know that their services will continue.

"We are saddened by the news that so many Help at Home caregivers who have served thousands of North Alabama for many years will be losing their jobs in a few days," said Michelle Jordan, TARCOG's executive director. "Our staff is working diligently to ensure that the people we serve in DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison and Marshall counties will

continue to receive companion and personal care, as well as skilled and unskilled respite for caregivers."

TARCOG is one of the state's Area Agencies on Aging, which is overseen by the Alabama Department of Senior Services. Sheila Dessau-Ivey, TARCOG's director of aging programs, said TARCOG was notified at the end of August that Help at Home would be leaving Alabama. Since that time, the TARCOG staff has been working with clients to assist with transitioning services to existing direct service providers. The client chooses who provides their service.

"Some of our clients opt for self-direction, which means they can choose to hire a family member or friend to provide their needed services with payment of those services coming through a program called Personal Choices," Dessau-Ivey said. "Since some clients prefer self-directed services, TARCOG staff also helps with this process."

Jordan said, while there may be some clients who may experience a delay with the transition of providers, most receiving services with the help of TARCOG have already been transitioned to new service providers.

by Wendy Reeves



HU, Drake Partner for G&W Operations

Huntsville Utilities and Drake State Community & Technical College have announced a partnership to provide scholarships for a Gas & Water Operations program.

This innovative four-week program will provide alternative pathways to entering the workforce and enrich the pool of potential candidates for gas and water operation careers at Huntsville Utilities and other prospective local employers.

The Gas and Water Operation Certification Program will equip students with the essential skills and knowledge required for successful careers in the gas and water operations sector.

The curriculum covers various topics, including

Class B CDL training, basic welding, OSHA 10, first-aid, CPR, leadership, basic computer training, and basic mathematics.

As part of this partnership, Huntsville Utilities will fund scholarships that cover tuition, materials and supplies, facility fees, advertising, and student meals for program partici-

pants.

In addition to financial support, Huntsville Utilities will provide crucial job training and mentorship to scholarship recipients from the College through our existing training resources.

For more information, visit <https://drakestate.edu/workforce-development/>

PHC 'Battle of the Bands' to Fight Cancer Set

The Patricia Haley Charity has announced the 2023 Battle of the Bands, an effort to raise funds for use in the fight against cancer. The event will be held Sunday, November 5, at Milton Frank Stadium, 2801 15th Avenue, Huntsville, Ala., from 2-4 p.m.

The theme is "Stepping into the Ring: Fighting for Hope Over Despair in the Battle Against Childhood Cancer." The event will feature the Marching Maroon and White Band of Alabama A&M University, directed by Carlton J. Wright.

For additional information, contact the Patricia Haley Charity at (256) 503-2921, (256) 813-4209 or email info@patriciahaleycharity.com. Tickets: <https://tickets.bestofhuntsville.com/events/2023-battle-of-the-bands-11-5-2023>.

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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Full Page	10x10 inches	\$1,200
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$900
Half Page	Horizontal 5x10 inches	\$600
	Vertical 10x5 inches	\$600
Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee



Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here is what's happening in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, this week:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in session this week. With only hours left on Saturday before a government shutdown at midnight, the House and Senate approved a 45-day temporary funding bill to keep the federal government operating until Nov. 17. After repeated attempts to corral votes within the GOP Conference, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy decided to put forward a bill that provides funding at the FY2023 level, \$16 billion in disaster relief funds, and extensions of the FAA authorization and the National Flood Insurance Program – which garnered 290 Democratic votes, but only 126 Republicans. The Senate approved the bill late Saturday night by a vote of 88-9, which President Biden was able to sign into law before the midnight deadline. Last week, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) announced that the House was cancelling its scheduled 2-week October recess that was to have begun Monday to complete work on the FY24 appropriations bills

– with the House this week taking up the Energy & Water and Legislative Branch bills.

2. VACATE THE SPEAKER VOTE. On Sunday, Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) vowed to bring a privileged “motion to vacate” resolution to the House floor this week to oust Speaker McCarthy. Gaetz is taking issue with the Speaker's apparent volte-face on keeping the federal government open without any concessions from the Democrats on cutting spending. If Gaetz calls for a vote on the resolution, the House Leadership would be required to schedule a vote within two legislative days, although motions to table and motions to recommit would also be in order. The motion to vacate needs only a simple majority to pass.

3. THE WHITE HOUSE. Last Friday, President Biden ordered U.S. flags to be flown at half-mast in honor of the passing of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), whose funeral will take place in California on Thursday (it was reported Sunday night that California Gov. Gavin Newsom will appoint EMILY'S List President Laphonza Butler to fill the

seat – who could be sworn in as soon as Tuesday). On Monday, the President made remarks about the Americans with Disabilities Act and then hold a cabinet meeting. Last week, the White House announced that the President will host a meeting in Washington on Oct. 20 with European Commission President Ursula von der Layen and European Council President Charles Michel to discuss relaxing the 2018-imposed EU steel and aluminum tariffs.

4. STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF. Last Friday, the Biden administration announced its next steps on student loan forgiveness, focusing on a narrower effort so far than the mass debt relief it previously offered. The Department of Education announced earlier this year it is going through the negotiated rulemaking process under the Higher Education Act to try to enact more student loan relief. The department has released its “initial set of policy considerations” for the new plan, focusing on “student loan borrowers in need.”

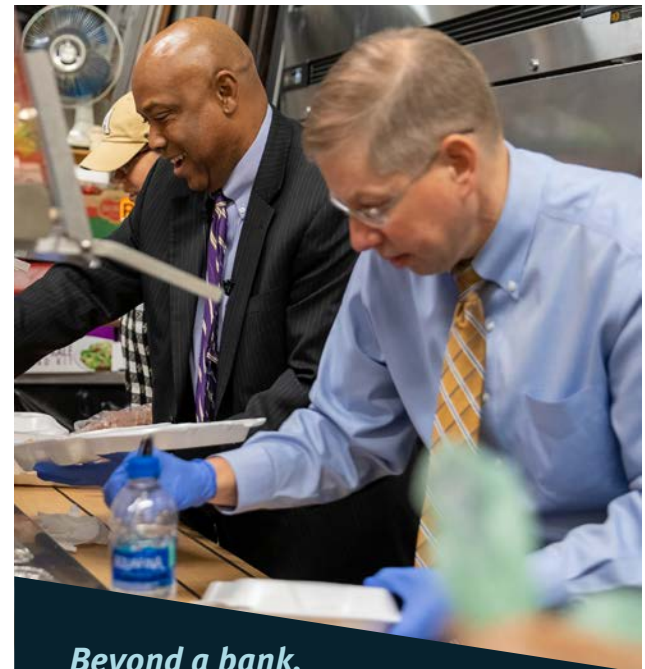
The administration is looking at five groups for its new debt relief: borrowers who entered repayment decades ago; borrowers whose balances are greater than what they originally owed; borrowers who are eligible for relief under specific programs but didn't apply; those under financial hardship; and those who went through programs that didn't give financial value. These initial

policy considerations will be discussed at the first Student Loan Relief Committee meeting Oct. 10-11. The committee is made up of 14 affected constituency groups that are nonfederal negotiators. These groups will give feedback on the department's proposal while offering ideas of their own. This process is expected to take longer than previous student debt relief actions, meaning a plan may not be finalized until well into next year, when it will certainly face lawsuits from conservatives.

5. SUPREME COURT. On Monday, the Supreme Court began its 2023-24 term and, among the cases argued this

week, will be whether the Consumer Financial Protection Board, created in response to the 2008 financial crisis, is constitutional. Last Friday, the court announced that it will hear 2 cases in the upcoming term about the constitutionality of laws in Texas and Florida that restrict how social media companies control user content.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW

Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189 - www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral service for MR. ALFONSO T. PROVENS, JR. (b. 1969) was held Monday, October 2, at The Church of Brothers and Sisters in Christ (118 Clearvue Road - Huntsville, Ala.) with The Reverend Felix Chew officiating.

Funeral service for MR. TIMOTHY EASLEY (b. 1953) was held Saturday, September 30, at Saint James Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Patrick Arrington officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. JOANN WEST (b. 1944) was held Saturday, September 30, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace.

Funeral service for MRS. IRISH L. LANGHAM (b. 1932) was held Monday, September 25, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW

Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481 - www.royalfh.com

Funeral service for MR. ADRIAN LAMONTE EPPS (b. 1977) will be 1 p.m., Monday, October 9, at the First Seventh-day Adventist Church (1303 Evangel Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor William Lee officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. CHENETTA HILL JEFFERSON (b. 1952) will be 12 noon, Saturday, October 7, at the Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Belafonte Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Jaymes Mooney officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAMES HENRY GREER, SR. (B. 1933) was held Sunday, October 1, at the Deliverance Outreach Worship Center (3412 Mastin Lake Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Bishop Aaron Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MOTHER HATTIE MAE CLEMONS BROWN (b. 1937) was held Sunday, October 1, at the Big Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church (133 Maple Street, Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Jeffery Jefferson officiating.

Memorial service for MRS. RAETHENA DANSBY JOHN-SON (b. 1969) was held Sunday, October 1.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW

Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693 - www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Funeral service for MS. CAROLYN EASON-ROBINSON (b. 1966) will be Saturday, October 7, at St. James #2 CPCA, 2950 Jeff Road, Harvest, Ala.

St. John Paul II HS Sponsoring Oktoberfest

On Saturday, October 14, St. John Paul II Catholic High School, 7301 Old Madison Pike, will come together with the local community to celebrate its annual Oktoberfest. Doors open at 6 p.m.

This event provides a fun-filled evening with German food, live German music, a silent auction, and an assortment of games for all in attendance (\$50).

Please visit us online by scanning the QR code or by going to <https://auctria.events/OktoberfestJP2>.

Here you can buy tickets online with a credit card or print the registration form to send to the school.

Questions? Email Vickie Marks at Oktoberfest@JP2falcons.org. You may also call (256) 430-1760 or email oktoberfest@jp2falcons.org.

All net proceeds will be used to improve the school's safety measures and equipment.

EarlyWorks Schedules Three-Day Halloween Bash!

EarlyWorks Children's Museum will hold a three-day Halloween Bash October 26 at 4:30 p.m. - October 28 at 7:30 p.m.

The Museum is located at 404 Madison Street SE, in Downtown Huntsville. Tickets grant access to a special trick-or-treating experience the family, along with a specified path, so no one can miss a thing!

Prices are \$10 for ages 4 and up and children 3 and under are free. Purchase **TICKETS** in advance

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



A Heart That Pleases God

Genesis 4:3-5 says, In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel brought an offering, fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering. But on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor

When I played professional football for six years, we were judged by our talents, our strength, our size and our speed. But God doesn't look at us that way. God looks at our hearts and He looks at our desire to please Him.

So how do we develop a desire to please God? Psalm 37:4 tells us to delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.

As we see here in this scripture, Abel had a greater desire to please God than Cain did. So, my question is, do we only desire God to answer prayers for our lives, or do we desire to please Him? So often we want God to answer our prayers, but we don't honor our commit-

ments that we make to God. For example, we may say that we are going to study the word more or pray more or give more, but we never follow through

with these promises. So,



I pray that God gives each and every one of us a more dedicated heart so that we can be more obedient and committed to what He wants us to do.

May God grant you spiritual success with your desire to please Him.

Question: What commitments have you made to God that you have not fulfilled?

Stay encouraged my brothers and sisters and make sure you purchase a copy of my book *Spiritual Game Plans for a Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life* at amazon.com, Westbow Books or, if you have a PayPal account, email me at preston-brown81@gmail.com, and I will send you an auto-graphed copy.



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A New Generation Of Service

The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

October 6

Art Party for Singles
The Hawt Spot Beauty and Art (\$35)
Bailey Cove Road SE
Huntsville, Ala.
7-9 p.m.

October 7

Rocket City Scottish Festival and Highland Games
Sharon Johnston Park
9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Huntsville Children's Business Fair (Free)
The Event Center at Roto-Rooter
Eventbrite.com
1435 ParamounntDrive
Huntsville, Ala.
1-5 p.m.

Maxwell

Concert
The Orion Amphitheater
Huntsville, Ala.
7:30 p.m.

October 13

The Rocket City Blues Festival
Featuring: King George, Calvin Richardson, Pokey Bear, Willie Clayton and J-Wonn
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall/Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
8 p.m.

October 20

Mystic Forest Fantasy Masque II
Embassy Suites
7 p.m.

October 28

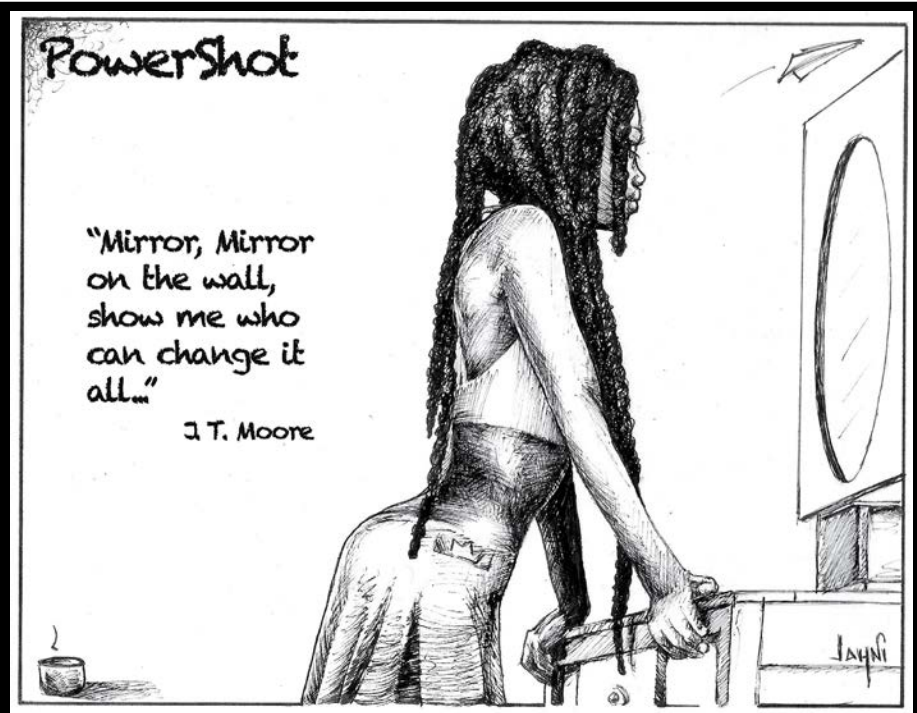
Anita Baker
Concert
The BJCC
Tickets: Via Ticketmaster
Birmingham, Ala.
8 p.m.

November 4

Bulldog Football vs. Florida A&M
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
1 p.m.

November 12

A Gospel Symphony Celebration
(Featuring Donald Lawrence)
Special Guests: Vox Fortura, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Dr. Henry Panion III, Miles College Choir and UAB Gospel Choir
Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center
1200 10th Avenue South
Birmingham, Ala - 7 p.m.
(205) 975-ARTS
Tickets: <https://www.alsystephens.org/events/gospel-celebration/>




BULLDOGS & TIGERS: Old friends meet again during a Homecoming after party and retirement celebration for Tuskegee-AAMU alumnus Jerome Saintjones. Pictured above are Mary Williams Hurt, and Tuskegeans Beverly R. Taylor and Darlene Minniefield. (Photo: J. Saintjones)

*If now isn't a good time for the truth,
I don't see when we'll get to it.*

- Nikki Giovanni

Harrison Center Seniors Have Own A&M Tailgate

Photos by Jerome Saintjones



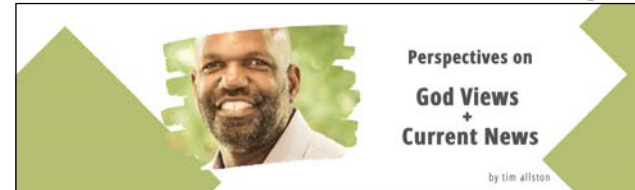
Huntsville Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

SHARE YOUR VIRTUAL FREE COPIES of The Valley Weekly Each Week! Visit ValleyWeeklyllc.com



REMEMBERING: 'Ol Friend and Angel: "Hidden Figures" Icon Katherine Goble Johnson

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it" Hebrews 13:2 NIV.

The author of this Book of Hebrews cautioned these Jews-turned-Christians in this passage to be consistent and hospitable to all people, because you never know what blessed person you may encounter.

While a Hampton Institute (now University) student, I met and befriended a kind and unpretentious school teacher-looking lady and her husband - only to "meet" them again 43 years later. And on the silver screen.



NO LONGER MY "HIDDEN FIGURE"

As my family and I sat in a Huntsville theater enjoying the 2016 movie "Hidden Figures," I received the shock of my life when during the ending credits the lead character played by Taraji Henson, was shown in real life: Katherine Goble Johnson, who died on February 24, 2020, at age 101.

"WHOA, . . . I KNOW HER!" I blurted out unexpectedly in the crowded theater, ". . . AND her husband!" I added reflectively. Then it all started coming back to me ...

"COLLEGE DAYS SWIFTLY PASS, IMBUED WITH MEMORIES FOND, . . ." (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity hymn, 3rd verse)

In 1974, I met and befriended Alpha Brother Jim Johnson, a cordial ramrod-postured retired Army colonel, and his wife Katherine, an attractive yet demure woman.

In the 1980s while I worked at Hampton as school publicist and advisor to student leaders, coed Laurie Hylick who would remind me occasionally, "You know my grandmother and grandfather, . . . he's one of your frat brothers."

I was thrilled to hear Katherine Johnson deliver the 2017 Hampton commencement address, advising those 917 grads and their families and friends, "Help as many people as you can because it is not fun if you know a lot of stuff and they don't know anything."

Never once during those 43 years did this 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient and "First Woman of Color in Space," whose calculations helped launch America into space, or her granddaughter Laurie or daughter/fellow Hamptonian Joylette Goble-Hylick ever hint about the iconic pioneer and angel that I had befriended for decades. The quiet competence of this designated "First Woman of Color in Space" transcended at least three generations.

Q: What angel are you befriending - or, more importantly, Are you the angel that they could be entertaining?

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>
leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com

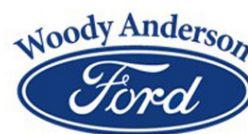
NAAACC Meetings

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

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



Woody Anderson Ford
 256-539-9441
www.WoodyAndersonFord.com
 2500 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL



AHA Partners with Harpersville's Wallace House

Following this year's Colloquium on October 23, the Alabama Humanities Alliance is offering an opportunity to tour the 1841-era Wallace House in Harpersville. Learn how descendants of the home's earliest inhabitants have come together to reckon with their shared past.

Through this experience, you'll have the chance to:

- Visit with descendants as they share their stories and hopes for the future.

- Tour the grounds, including Bearing Witness: Praise House, a site-specific sculpture by Tony M. Bingham of Miles College. The open-air piece beautifully evokes the spiritual practices of those once enslaved on the plantation.

- Explore an exhibit of articles, photographs, and other materials drawn from the ancestral "history house" of descendant Peter Datcher.

Hear from Nell Gottlieb, direct descendant of the enslaver who established the plantation. Nell will serve as

tour guide on a charter bus to the Wallace House, providing a historical overview of the site you'll encounter. The tour is \$50 and is limited to 50 people, so REGISTER NOW to reserve your spot.

Note: Registration includes charter bus transportation that will take participants from the Grand Bohemian Hotel (our host venue for the Alabama Colloquium) to the Wallace House and back.

October 23
Wallace House schedule:

1:30 p.m.: Alabama Colloquium ends

1:45 p.m.: Charter bus departs Grand Bohemian for Wallace House

2:45 p.m.: Bus arrives at Wallace House; tour and program begins

4 p.m.: Program concludes at Wallace House; bus departs

5 p.m.: Bus arrives back at Grand Bohemian Hotel

The Wallace Center for Arts and Reconciliation facilitates racial healing and



repair through the arts and education. The Wallace Center is converting a remnant of America's racist past into a symbol of a more equitable future.

The Center provides opportunities to engage in activities that raise consciousness about race through dance, music, poetry, visual arts and education.

Participants have the opportunity to acknowledge and express a painful past and move to a brighter future.

Over the past five years, White and Black descendants of the Wallace House have come together for

family reunions and honest conversations that have led to healing and connection among people with a shared but complicated past.

One of those folks is Peter Datcher, a founding board member of the Wallace Center for Arts & Reconciliation. He's also a farmer and family historian

who is descended from Lucy Wallace Baker, a woman who was enslaved on the Wallace Plantation and who, after emancipation, was first in three generations of midwives.

"We're living in a time when our nation wants to be divided," Datcher says. "Do you heal from lying? Or do you heal by telling the truth?"

The Alabama Humanities Alliance recently partnered with the Wallace House, selecting the Harpersville site as a pilot project of AHA's new Healing History initiative. The Wallace House used AHA's funding to craft an oral history project and video about the work of reconciliation in progress there.

- alabamahumanities.org

ON THIS DAY



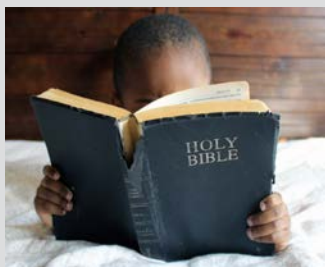
On October 6, 1993, Mae C. Jemison of Decatur, Ala., was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Jemison is best known for becoming the first African-American woman to be admitted to NASA's astronaut training program and to fly in space.

- bet.com

I saw dawn upon them like the sun a vision of a time when all men walk proudly through the earth and the bombs and missiles lie at the bottom of the ocean like the bones of dinosaurs buried under the shale of eras.

- Dudley Randall

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, October 8, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-14

Second Lesson:

Philippians 3:4b-14

GOSPEL:

Matthew 21:33-46



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

Mrs. Willie Mae Draper

Mother Willie Mae Draper was born November 25, 1923, in Madison County to the Late Mr. Henry Lee Miller and Mrs. Pearline Binford Miller. During early childhood, she contracted the "fatal" disease diphtheria, but through the faith and continuous prayers of her mother, God miraculously healed her. This divine intervention became the foundation upon which Mother Draper's built her life.

In 1950, Mother Draper, under the ministry of Elder S. H. Netter, was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. God saved her husband and called him to the ministry and in 1963 Elder Draper became the Pastor of the New Market COGIC, later the Beirne Avenue COGIC. Pastor Draper and Mother Draper served until his death in 1998.

Mother Draper's most noted dates, appointments, and honors are: 1985-present, President, State Hospitality Department, appointed by the late Bishop C. H. Ashworth Alabama State Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction I; and, in 1990, international missionary work



in Schweinfurt, Germany and across northern Germany on a 21-day sojourn in Christ for 35-plus years faithfully. In 2002, she traveled to Oahu, Hawaii, where the Lord used her to witness to souls.

She is the proud mother of three children—Bet-

ty Damper, Pastor Dave Draper, Jr., and Pastor Jesse Draper—and she is a beloved grand- and great-grandmother.

Mother Draper possesses a saintly nature which is the mark of a Godly woman. She is celebrated for her quiet dignity, labor of love, and Godly advice. Mother Draper stands tall as a virtuous role model in her church, in her family, and in her community.

Drake State Urges Support of Endowment Fund

The Drake State Foundation Endowment Fund is a long-term sustainability fund that will ensure the future of the Drake State Foundation and support the students of today and tomorrow.

The Drake fund is invested in partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville. Established in 2008, the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville

launched with the generous donation of Founding Benefactors Joe and Pam Alexander.

In the years since, the Community Foundation has become a valued community partner convening donors, nonprofit organizations, community groups, local government, and businesses to create new pathways of philanthropy that address our region's most pressing challenges.

A tax free gift will make a difference for the sustainability of the organization and the longevity of Drake's mission.

Persons who are interested in making a noncash donation, such as a stock gift, should e-mail the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville at giving@communityfoundationhsv.org.

Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2023

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
Huntsville, Ala. - 6 p.m.

September 16
@Southern U. (L, 20-10)
A.W. Mumford Stadium
Baton Rouge, La. - 6 p.m.

September 21 (Thursday)
UAPB (W, 31-24)
Louis Crews Stadium
Huntsville, Ala. - 6:30 p.m.

September 30 (Homecoming)
Tuskegee (W, 58-3)
Louis Crews Stadium
Huntsville, Ala. - 2 p.m.

October 7 (Gulf Coast Challenge)
Jackson State University
Ladd-Peebles Stadium
Mobile, Ala. - 4 p.m.

October 14
@Grambling State
Eddie G. Robinson Memorial Stadium
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
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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.



AAMU, FICO Join Forces for Launch of Educational Analytics Challenge

Students at Alabama A&M University and Bowie State University are in the first-ever FICO® Educational Analytics Challenge.

The program created for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) is designed to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in data science, engineering and technol-

ogy fields.

This program presents students with a real-world analytic challenge to identify and mitigate bias in data and decision models using historical housing data.

Students will also learn how AI guardrails and Responsible AI are needed to protect and safely advance analytic practices.

The fall semester-long

program features remote mentoring from FICO data scientists and in-person lectures by FICO's Chief Analytics Officer, Dr. Scott Zoldi.

"One of the biggest challenges of building predictive models is identifying and handling inherent biases in the data," said Dr. Scott Zoldi at FICO. "To help further inclusion by fighting biases in



models, we are training and supporting a diverse and talented group of young people to drive the future of AI innovation and propel Responsible AI practices forward. I am pleased to be able to meet with students at their schools to both share ideas at lectures and engage in informal mentoring conversations."

The pilot program allows students to work in teams to sharpen their

analytics skills and provides access to FICO analytics subject matter experts for technical/project support and mentoring opportunities.

The project also provides financial support to enhance analytics study for each participating HBCU and creates potential career opportunities for students for employment after graduation.

"Being a part of the educational analytics program launch is extremely important to us as it provides our students with experience in solving a real-world problem, and encourages diversity,

equity, and inclusion in data science," said John D. Jones, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs at Alabama A&M University. "We are committed to teaching skills and challenging our students to empower the next generation of innovators and social justice seekers driven to stamp out analytic bias. Our data science network is thankful to be supported by Dr. Scott Zoldi and FICO's team of mentors."

For more information, please visit <https://www.fico.com/en/newsroom/fico-partners-historically-black-colleges-and-universities-launch-educational-analytics>

State of the City Focuses on Progress, Identity

Huntsville's unique identity and progressive approach to development were the highlights of Mayor Tommy Battle's annual State of the City address recently at the Von Braun Center's Saturn Ballroom.

Delivering his 15th State of the City since being elected in 2008, Mayor Battle touted the City's measured growth in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

"We are Huntsville," he said. "We dare to be different, and we set the tempo. Because we have an unequaled and unsurpassed passion for innovation, we boldly march to the future."

The 2023 State of the

City was hosted by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber and is the group's largest event. Approximately 1,100 community and business leaders attended this year's sold-out luncheon.

During his speech, Battle focused on the City's economy, strategic initiatives and what makes Huntsville an excellent place to live, work and play. He also announced plans for a major, two-day music festival at John Hunt Park.

If approved by City Council, festival producer C3 Presents would create a one-of-a-kind music experience unlike anything Huntsville has ever seen.

"If you've never heard of

C3, you've probably heard of some of the festivals they've produced, including Austin City Limits, Lollapalooza and Bonnaroo," Mayor Battle said. "With Council's blessing, we can't wait to listen to internationally acclaimed artists performing at Huntsville's first large-scale music festival."

Battle also credited aerospace and defense companies for Huntsville's economic successes, including a gross domestic product (GDP) of \$5.6 billion. Redstone Arsenal, home to 44,000 workers, has an economic impact of \$27 billion per year and accounts for nearly 10% of the state's GDP.

OCTOBER 6 - LEBRON JAMES, JR. - LeBron James Jr is the eldest son of NBA superstar LeBron James and Savannah Brinson who was already gaining recruitment interest at the age of 9 from Ohio State head coach Thad Matta as well as Kentucky head coach John Calipari. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio and lived in Miami while his dad was a member of the Miami Heat. He led his AAU level basketball team to the fourth grade national championship. In 2018, he commit to play high school basketball at Crossroads School in Santa Monica, California. He has a younger brother named Bryce and a younger sister named Zhuri. His godfather is NBA point guard Chris Paul.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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