"A thing is mighty big when time and distance cannot shrink it." - Zora Neale Hurston

Volume 6 No. 6

www.valleyweeklyllc.com



<u>FREE</u>



Rice Named ACCC AD of the Year

Lawson State's Carlton Rice has been named the Alabama Community College Conference's 2018-19 Athletic Director of the Year. Rice, the youngest athletic director in the ACCC, attributes his work ethic to his raising.

"My parents always encouraged and supported my brother and I. They were always challenging us and pushing us. Dad would work on our athletic skills in the yard, and mom would drill us with flash cards. We weren't allowed to play outside before she had proofread every homework assignment we had," said Rice.

"The training instilled in me at that time motivated me to be a competitor and never settle for mediocrity." Rice graduated with his

B.S. degree in physical education in 2006 from Mississippi State University. He earned his M.S. degree in physical education in 2009 from Alabama A&M University.

AAMU Alum to Be Honored for Work in Osteopathics

An Alabama A&M University (AAMU) alumnus and physician will be recognized for exemplary service to the practice of military medicine.

Dr. Mark E. Fleming, deputy director of the Navy Trauma Training Center, and adjunct clinical associate professor of orthopaedics for Los Angeles County and University of Southern California Medical Center, has been selected by the American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF) to re-

ceive its inaugural 2019 AOF Distinguished Military Service Award. The award honors outstanding osteopathic physicians who have made significant contributions to the practice of military medicine and who have served as exemplary role models for other physicians.

Dr. Fleming is being honored in recognition of his exemplary work, demonstrated leadership, significant educational impact, as well as his passion for, and unwavering commitment to, the osteopathic profession. He will receive the award at the 2019 AOF Honors Gala on October 25, 2019, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Fleming earned the Bachelor of Science degree in physics and computer science with honors from (AAMU) in 1989. He is married to Kreslyon Valrie Fleming, a 1991 honors graduate and former Miss Alabama A&M University. They are the proud parents of three children.

Photographer P.H. Polk Exhibit at A&M

Alabama A&M University's J.F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center (LRC) is hosting "Unframed Images: Photography from the Collection of P. H. Polk" through October 31. The exhibit will be open for viewing during library hours seven days a week.

Prentice Herman ("P.H.") Polk was the longtime photographer for Tuskegee University, and many of his photographs are displayed in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. LRC offers the showing as part of the ongoing Alabama Bicentennial celebration. The Polk collection at LRC is made possible through a partnership with Tuskegee, Mississippi State and the Southern Literary Trail.

Valley Mourns Death of Voting Rights Activist, Volunteer

The Tennessee Valley region is now less one icon with the Friday, October 11, 2019, death of community activist Rosetta James. She would have been 94 on October 31.

Rosetta Jones James was born in tiny Akron, Ala., located within Hale County and the popular region known as the Black Belt. Most important, James was a servant, amply displayed by her lengthy volunteerism in the Huntsville-Madison County community, stemming from the time of her move to the Tennessee Valley area in 1973. Prior to her move to the Rocket City, she lived in Long Island, New York, for 27 years. Indeed, she became heavily involved in local civic, educational, religious, and political activities and causes, continuing her life-long commitment to volunteerism after leaving New York.

Once based in Huntsville, she became an earnest presence upon the local scene. She worked part-time for the Madison County Extension Office, while yet supporting her husband, the late Mr. McKinley James, with his burgeoning landscaping business. This business afforded them the opportunity to meet and engage with many people in the vicinity. It would also lead to her virtual inability to say "no" to volunteer requests that would ultimately make

the Huntsville community a better place to live, work and play.

Her greatest local challenge was convincing others to allow her to lead and serve the community in diverse capacities, in spite of her mere high school education. Her lengthy volunteerism and community service included numerous organizations and agencies.

After organizing countless voter registration drives, her demonstrated commitment led the Madison County Chapter of the Alabama Democratic Conference to re-name its annual membership breakfast "The Rosetta James Membership Breakfast," as well as to her appointment as Madison County's first Deputy Voter Registrar. During the primary and election



seasons, she often worked 12-14 hours daily to meet her commitments.

Mrs. James will lie in repose at First Missionary Baptist Church at 11 a.m., one hour prior to the funeral on Thursday, October 17, at noon. She will be buried in the Burroughs Family Cemetery in Greensboro, Ala., Friday morning.



Curtis Lundy to Perform, *Page 2* From the Editor, *Page 3* A&M Athletic Hall of Fame Returns, *Page 4* Shaq Named MCC Ambassador, *Page 4* Calendar of Events, *Page 5* Champion Game Plan, *Page 5* Spotlight on Our Elders, *Page 7*

Page 2

The Valley Weekly

October 18, 2019

TVJS to Host Curtis Lundy



Curtis Lundy and his world-class group of musicians are excited about coming to Huntsville, Ala., on Friday, November 8, 2019, for a world-class jazz show, "Music of the Civil Rights Movement: The Music of Freedom."

The 6 p.m. show will be held at the cozy The Cooper House, located at 406 Randolph Avenue, Downtown Huntsville.

"Alabama's and America's rich music history is so important, we, the Tennessee Valley Jazz Oneness Committee in Huntsville, have taken a stance and commitment to continue presenting it in many forms including the spirituals, gospels, blues, and jazz," said Howard Bankhead, head of the Tennessee Valley Jazz Society.

Tickets (\$35) are available at www.tvjs.webs.com or call (256) 604-8172.

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ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

on the campus of

DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019 AT 10:30 A.M. IN THE CAFETORIUM

> FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 256-551-3120

Reception immediately following program.







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October 18, 2019

The Valley Weekly

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Editor-in-Chief Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

Editorial Consultant/ Senior Editor Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

Editorial Assistants Linda Burruss Phyllis Chunn Gary T. Whitle<u>y</u>, Jr.

Advertising Associate Phyllis Chunn

- Contributing Editors tim allston Lamar A. Braxton, Jr. Minister Preston Brown Cody L. "Global" Gopher Ron Hamm Pastor Michael D. Rice

Website Administrator Calvin Farier

Mailing Address: The Valley Weekly 415A Church Street - Suite 100 Huntsville, AL 35801 (256) 651-9028 www.valleyweeklyllc.com

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Ahhhh, Rest in Peace, Mrs. Rosetta James! The Valley has lost a true community activist with the passing of Mrs. Rosetta James on Friday, October 11. Her lengthy life included almost 40 years of service to the Valley area along, not to mention her contributions prior to those years in New York.

A native West Alabamian, Mrs. James became an icon for voter registration, and we have



provided some of her many accomplishments on Page 1, but read even more on her Wikipedia page. Mrs. James will lie in repose at First Missionary Baptist Church one hour before the funeral service, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 12 noon. Arrangements are being coordinated by Nelms Memorial Funeral Home. She will be buried at Burroughs Family Cemetery in Greensboro, Alabama, on Friday morning.

Congratulations to Drake State! Recently, Dr. Patricia G. Sims, president of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, enthusiastically notified the Drake State Family about some very good news.

"I am so excited to share with you that our hard work is being noticed!" she said in campus-wide communication. "We have been identified as one of the Top Ten Small HBCUs on the move." She then went on to encourage her loyal supporters to click on a link to read the article.

"We should all be proud to be included in this group of institutions," Dr. Sims concluded, before praising her loyalists for team work, professionalism and commitment to strengthen and grow" the col-



lege.

The HBCUCampaignFund.org posted its "2019 Ten Top Smaller HBCUs that Are Rising." It categorized HBCUs as institutions founded on or before 1964, many of them established following the Civil War, a period encompassing some 150 years. Throughout that difficult period, HBCUs have been nourished, provided for, and have served academic excellence to low-income, first-generation, and academically underprepared students. Indeed, our HBCUs continue to thrive in its mission to building confidence to turning those students into educated testimonies.

Among the "rising" group from 10 to 1 were: Morris Brown,

Atlanta, Ga. (ranked 10th); Simmons College of Kentucky, Louisville, Ky.; Denmark Technical College, Denmark, S.C.; J.F. Drake Community and Technical College, Huntsville, Ala. (7th); Tougaloo College, Jackson, Miss.; Allen University, Columbia, S.C.;



Lane College, Jackson, Tenn.; Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Ark.; Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Fla.; and (No. 1) Wiley College, Marshall, Tex. Congratulations to Dr. Sims and our friends at J.F. Drake State and Community College for making this distinguished list.

In other news ... Mrs. Kimberly Caudle Lewis was the Women's Day Speaker at The Fellowship of Faith Church of September 15th. Her theme was "Beautifully Broken." Lewis is the current Chair of the Board at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Together, with her husband, Larry Lewis, she owns PROJECT XYZ a local minority, woman-owned, small business ...

Until next week ...



The 2019 class of

inductees will enter the

Alabama A&M Athletics

Hall of Fame on Novem-

ber 8 during the Hall of

Fame Banquet, which is

being held on campus at

the Knight Center. The

banquet is part of the Hall

concludes on November 9,

football team hosts Jackson

when the Alabama A&M

State University at Louis

Individual tickets for

the banquet are \$40, while

tables can be purchased

for \$500. Tickets can be

purchased at the Alabama

A&M ticket office, which is

located on campus at Louis

Crews Stadium.

Crews Stadium.

of Fame weekend, which

October 18, 2019

Perspectives on EGO-holism

Congrats and Thanks, Brandt and **Biles: My Newest Role Models** Read Luke 23:34, Psalm 49:12-15

NEWSFLASH: I've decided finally who and what I want to imitate as I grow up - thanks to last week's role models, Generation Z-ers Brandt Jean (love-leading) and Simone Biles (legacy-leaving).



Let me explain, . . . Love-Leading, ...

(October 1st): A Dallas, TX, jury found white policewoman Amber Guyger guilty of murdering next-door apartment neighbor Botham Jean - Black and unprovoked in his own apartment.

Days later, 18-year old brother Brandt Jean marathonoffered the sentenced Guyger, "I forgive you. . . . I love you as a person and I don't wish anything bad on you," then hugged her - against the social media's momentary vitriol of sprintlike bitterness and tepid Black backlash.

Just like Jesus uttered to his Roman, Jewish murderers during his highest agony and pain on Calvary's crucifixion cross, Brandt ("Jesus 2.0") plagiarized, "Father: forgive her, for she knew not what she did" (Luke 23:34).

Heaven's eligibility requires no less. Period.

Q1: Today, who's in need of your forgiveness, your leading with love?

... And Legacy-Leaving

First, there was the Ali Shuffle (1966, boxing), then the Fosbury Flop (1968, high jump), and later, the Shaq Attack (2006, basketball) - i.e., skills branded after iconic athletes.

(October 6th): Now, there's "Biles" and "Biles II," named for Simone Biles at the recent Stuttgart, Germany-hosted World Artistic Gymnastics Championships.

History's most decorated female gymnast perfected a firstever triple-twisting double somersault floor exercise (Biles II) and also a double-twisting double somersault balance beam dismount (Biles).

Biles: Inheritance vs. Legacy

According to leadership expert-author, Dr. John C. Maxwell, the 22-year old Biles has vaulted successfully from a mere gymnastics inheritance to a gold-medaled legacy: "Anyone can leave an inheritance. An inheritance is something you leave to your family or loved ones, . . . temporarily brings them happiness . . . and it also fades. A legacy is something you leave in your family and loved ones . . . lives on long after vou die."

History's first rock star, King David, nailed a "10" with this routine/admonition: "We aren't immortal. We don't last long. Like our dogs, we age and weaken. And die. This is what happens to those who live for the moment, who only look out for themselves" Psalm 49:12-15. Q2: For your family, co-workers and friends, are you leaving for them an inheritance - or a legacy?

tim allston is the author of the free book, 7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else," free and downloadable now at www.GetEgoHelpNow.org.

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Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

AAMU Revives Athletic Hall of Fame

Kelly-Austin, volleyball;

basketball; Terry Batts,

football; Valerie Hervey,

women's basketball; James

Martin, athletics adminis-

tration; and Hali Andrew

Longtime Alabama

Sidney Jackson is being

recognized by the Hall of

Fame Advisory Board as a

back the Alabama A&M

a great class of induct-

ees," said Alabama A&M

Director of Athletics Bryan

Hicks, who serves as chair-

person of the Athletics Hall

Athletics Hall of Fame with

"We are excited to bring

A&M sports photographer

Robinson, football.

special contributor.

Melody Dawson, women's

The Alabama A&M Athletics Hall of Fame has announced its 2019 class of inductees. Eight new members are entering the Hall of Fame.

The 2019 class is highlighted by four former NFL players, a former Alabama A&M administrator, one of the university's mostsuccessful coaches, a student-athlete who was a trailblazer for females in college athletics and a student-athlete who was part of multiple conference titles.

The inductees entering the Hall of Fame with the 2019 class are Robert Mathis, football; Kendrick Rogers, football; Betty

of Fame Advisory Board.

Shaq Named MCC Ambassador

Organizers for the 2019 Magic City Classic have announced the event's Ambassador, as well as the performer for the postgame concert.

Shaquille "Shaq" O'Neal, the legendary professional basketball player and sport analyst, often listed among the greatest players in

National Basketball Association (NBA) history, will serve as the ambassador for the 2019 Magic City Classic gridiron contest in Birmingham, Ala. The Classic culminates with the historic football clash between Alabama A&M University and Alabama

State University on Saturday, October 26, at Legion Field at 2:30 p.m.

According to Bruno Event Team Vice President Carrie Coleman, the postgame concert will feature Atlanta-based rapper and Alabama State alum 2 Chainz.

Champion Game Plan for Life

"PRAYER CHANGES THINGS"

Luke 11:10 says, "For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

One of the things that I have come to realize is, prayer changes things. If we look at one of the characteristics of Jesus, we see that He was consistent when it came to prayer. We also need to be consistent when it comes to our prayer life, as well, because there will be disappointments and trials in our lives. Now, how we deal with the trials that come is very important, because I believe that there are only two outcomes that we can

expect. Either we survive or we are victorious. In other words, some people who have made it through hardships and disap-

pointments may survive, but they come out "tattered and torn." They come out of the situation perhaps bitter,

angry and frustrated, but they survived. But, on the other hand, there are people who come out of their circumstances victorious. They have an attitude of triumph about them, because they have evidence of God's goodness in their lives. Now why is this? I believe the reason for this

who prayer life, hard- changes this I

enthusiastic optimism has everything to do with their prayer life, because prayer changes things. When we

pray, it gives us all a different perspective about our circumstance. When we pray, we bring God into our situation and everything changes.

When we pray, it forces us to live by faith. It also forces us to surrender our pride and self- sufficiency that so many of us have. Prayer is the only way that we can keep the lines of communication open with God ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

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The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

Thru October 31

Tuskegee Photographer Prentice Herman "P.H." Polk Exhibit State Black Archives Alabama A&M University Wilson Building (256) 372-4728 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

October 17

Casino Night Fundraiser Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama Huntsville Country Club 2601 Oakwood Avenue NW Huntsville, Ala. - 6-9 p.m.

October 19

Domestic Violence Walk-A-Thon Richard Showers Center Walking Track 4600 Blue Springs Road Huntsville, Ala. 8 a.m-12 noon

October 20-27

Johnson/Butler Legacy Cruise Departing from New Orleans smonquet@yahoo.com

October 24

Madison County Candlelight Vigil Oakwood University Leadership Building-6 p.m.

October 27

Annual Harvest Program Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America Rev. Endia J. Scruggs, Pastor Guest Speaker: Rev. Jennifer Davis, New Beginnings Christian Church, Huntsville, Ala. 2403 Oakwood Road, NW Huntsville, Ala. - 9:30 a.m.

October 28

Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament for Stillman College Huntsville Country Club 2601 Oakwood Ave NW Huntsville. Ala. Lieutenant General Willie Williams, USMC, Retired, Honorary Chair

November 17

Education Banquet *Featuring* Congresswoman Terri Sewell Sponsor: R.E. Nelms Elks Lodge #977 - Tickets - \$50 Von Braun Center North Hall Huntsville, Ala. - 7 p.m.

Be Creative When Withdrawing from Retirement Accounts

Once you turn $70\frac{1}{2}$, you must begin a certain number of withdrawals from your traditional IRA and your 401(k), or else face tax penalties – but what if you don't need all the money? What should you do with the rest?

You could give some to your adult children to help them fund their own IRAs. If you don't exceed \$15,000 per individual, per year, you won't face gift taxes.

Here's another option: Use some of the money to help invest in a college savings vehicle for your grandchildren. Or, if they're ready for college now, you could just write a check to the school to cover part of the tuition and other costs. One final suggestion: You might want to transfer some of your required withdrawals directly to a charitable organi-

zation. This could help lower your taxable income, as the withdrawals are typically taxable. But you'll need to consult with your tax advisor before making this move.

Withdrawals from your 401(k) and IRA will likely contribute greatly to your retirement income, but, as we've seen, they can do even more than that – so use them wisely.

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Member SIPC



October 18, 2019



alley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-8189

Funeral service for MRS. ROSETTA JAMES (b. 1925) will be held Thursday, October 17, at 12 noon at First Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating and eulogy by Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs.

Funeral service for MR. WILLIAM ALLEN LESLIE was held Sunday, October 13, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church (New Market, Ala.) with Pastor Larry Davidson, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for MS. LATOYA DIANE LESLIE (b. 1983) was held Saturday, October 12, at Deliverance Outreach Worship Center with Apostle Aaron Jones officiating.

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

Memorial service for MS. DENISE LARUE WILLIS will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, October 20, at the Oakwood Seventh-day Church with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. JOANN MATHIS THOMPSON (b. 1945) will be 12 noon, Friday, October 18, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church (1919 Brandontown Road Hunts-ville, Ala.) with Pastor Ricky Sykes officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. HENRIETTA WALDRIP LAMPKIN (b. 1939) was held Sunday, October 13, at the First Seventh-day Adventist Church (1303 Evangel Drive, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Debleaire Snell officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. BETTYE JEAN MASSEY McQUART SANDERS (b. 1944) was held Saturday, October 12, at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church with Rev. Tramaine Snodgrass officiating.

Funeral service for MR. BYRON CLYDE FOSTER (b. 1968) was held Saturday, October 12, at Triana Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (263 Stone Street SW, Triana, Ala.) with Pastor James E. Childress, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for MR. RICHARD LAVON "DICKEY BOY" CLAYBORN (b. 1971) was held Saturday, October 12, at Syler Tabernacle (904 Oakwood Avenue, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Floyd Brazile officiating.

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

Funeral service for MR. ROBERT NEELEY was held Sunday, October 13, at Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church, 2350 Wall Triana Hwy., SW, Huntsville, Ala.

A private memorial service will be held for MR. JESSE JAMES JOHNSON of Huntsville, Ala., at a later date.



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Huntsville

City Council

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.

City 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. People can sign up for notices of Council meetings and special sessions online at https:// signup.e2ma.net/signup/1825550/1780821/ 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.

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Neither Intimidated Nor Impressed

Galatians 2:3-8

In ministry progress is often interrupted or held up, not by an outside source, rather it comes sometimes from a flaw in the servant. That is why every servant of Christ needs to make sure they are rooted and grounded in their relationship with Him; Paul was.

His three-year sabbatical

in Arabia (Galatians 1:17), solidified his confidence, competency and conviction in what He had been set apart to do. Therefore, when his ministry was challenged by those he called false ones, Paul was neither intimidated nor impressed. They were teaching that salvation depended on making the law, an appendage to the gospel; salvation by works.

The Valley Wee<u>kly</u>

Paul understood that his ministry was to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. This would have been a challenge for him, being a Jew, had he not spent proper time with Jesus and being secure in his own freedom in Christ.

Too often members of the Body of Christ are not sure even of their own salvation, much less the ministry that they have been called and gifted to do. This is what causes them to be intimidated by those who oppose them and impressed with those who "sound like" they "know that Bible" (a phrase I have often heard some use when speaking about someone who sounds like they really do know the Bible). Paul is worth emulating when it comes to doing ministry effectively. When Christ is Central, we are neither intimidated nor impressed by those who oppose.

NEXT WEEK: "Consequences But Not Condemnation"



"There are years that ask questions and years that answer."

- Zora Neale Hurston

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Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring Dr. Joseph Henderson

ist, Jearl Miles Clark (Olympic

In 1975, Coach Henderson entered the ranks of college coaching at Alabama A&M University. His first assigned duties were as an instructor in physical education, athletic counsel, assistant basketball coach and head track coach. He was given one (1) shoe to start his track program.

From one shoe at AAMU, Coach Henderson produced seven (7) Olympians, over 100 All Americans, three NCAA Division II Women's Outdoor Championships and one Indoor NCAA Division II Women's Championship.

His women's team won 16 consecutive SIAC outdoor track and field championships and 12 consecutive SIAC cross country championships. Some of his most successful athletes were: Grace Jackson Small (Olympic Silver MedalGold Medalist); Dannette Young Stone (Olympic Gold Medalist); Sharol Henry (First AAMU National T&F Champion); and a host of NCAA national champions, All Americans and SIAC champions. His peers voted him Regional (NCAA) Coach of the Year seven (7) or more times and National NCAA Coach of the Year three (3) times. During the early years of his college career Coach Henderson served as commissioner of the Alabama AIAW, which included all of the major colleges and universities in Alabama and athletic director at AAMU from 1977-1979.

When he was appointed as athletic director in 1977, the athletic program consisted of four male sports. During his two years and under his



supervision, the athletic program grew from four (4) men sports to seven (7) men sports and six (6) women sports.

Coach Joe Henderson was born in Hale County, Alabama. He later earned both the B.S. and master's degrees from Alabama State University; his educational specialist degree from Georgia State University; and the Ed.D. from Vanderbilt University.



OCTOBER 18 - CHUCK BERRY. Rock and Roll singer, guitarist Charles "Chuck" Edward Berry born in San Jose, Calif. Berry regarded as one of the founders of Rock and Roll and is the singer/songwriter for such hits as "Johnny B. Good" and "Roll Over Beethoven." - *BlackinTime.info*

October 18, 2019

Age Alone Should Not Affect Breast Cancer Treatment

(BPT) - One in eight women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Many will be surprised to learn that age is a major barrier when it comes to patients accessing the information they need to make a better-informed treatment decision.

Age shouldn't affect your chances of getting the right breast cancer treatment, yet an analysis from the National Cancer Institute revealed that patients under the age of 40 and over 70 are far less likely to get a genomic test called the Oncotype DX Breast Recurrence Score test compared to patients 40-70 years old.

This is a concerning reality since, based on research from more than 100,000 patients, Oncotype DX definitively identifies the vast majority of women with early-stage breast cancer who receive no benefit from chemotherapy, and the important minority of women for whom chemotherapy can be life-saving. The test provides patients with a personalized score based on the biology of their tumor that can help tailor treatment decisions for their individual cancer.

Younger and older women face different kinds of challenges when diagnosed with breast cancer, however, assumptions about cancer and a patient's age can make it hard for both groups of women to access the information they need to make an informed treatment decision. Take it from breast cancer survivors Amanda Nixon and Bunny Lenhard, who embarked on different treatment journeys based on their age.

Nixon was 27 years old when she was diagnosed with rare inflammatory breast cancer. While Nixon's doctor wanted to treat her cancer aggressively due to her age, there was no additional information disclosed regarding other treatment options, like genomic testing. "At the time of my diagnosis, I didn't feel like I was a partner with my doctor and I didn't realize I could ask questions about my treatment options," said Nixon. "I would have appreciated knowing more about my options, even if it would have been a lot of information to handle."

In contrast, Lenhard was able to look at various treatment options through an open dialogue with her doctor when she was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer at 75 years old. Lenhard was convinced she would need chemotherapy and was surprised when her doctor recommended taking the Oncotype DX test to determine if chemo was necessary. Lenhard's Recurrence Score was 20, which meant she would not benefit from chemotherapy. In talking with her doctor, Lenhard decided to forgo chemotherapy and receive radiation instead. For Lenhard, this access to information enabled her to develop a comprehensive and personalized treatment plan.

"Age is just a number, and it should not affect your options when it comes to your breast cancer treatment," said Lenhard. "Ask your doctor about



every possible option and then work together as a team to make the best treatment decision for you, regardless of your age."

Breast cancer treatment today is no longer a "one size fits all" approach. What is best for one woman may not be right for another. To address this need, the No Matter My Age campaign encourages all breast cancer patients to ask their doctors about accessing the information they need to make the right treatment decision, no matter their age. Visit NoMatterMyAge.org to learn more about how a genomic test can help you better understand and personalize your treatment options.

Educating women about genomic testing could help spare hundreds of thousands from unnecessary chemotherapy, while ensuring that those who may receive life-saving benefit from the treatment receive it.

Oakwood Highlighting Poet

The Department of English and Foreign Languages in conjunction with Alabama 200

presents Alabama poet Jeanie Thompson, the author of *The Myth of Water* on October 29 at Moran Hall auditorium at Oakwood University at 7 p.m.

The University of Alabama Press affirms Thompson's impres-

sive collection: *The Myth of Water* is a cycle of 34 poems by award-winning Alabama poet and writer Jeanie Thompson in the voice of world-renowned Alabamian Helen Keller. Free and open to the public the reading is being co-sponsored by Alabama 200 in celebration of the Alabama bicentennial. Call (256) 726-7186 for more information.



4650 Whitesburg Dr S, Suite 101 Huntsville, Alabama 35802 256-534-1360



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