

# An Emotional Day in Montgomery, p. 4

FREE



## "Art and AUM Foundation," p. 8



Friday  
October 22, 2021  
Vol. 8, No. 7  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

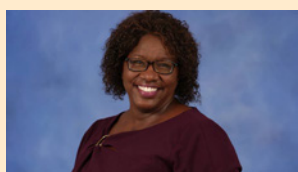
**SALUTE!**  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Dr. Horace W. Rice

"If your dreams don't scare you, they are too small." - Richard Branson

## Valley Mourns Death of Former Councilman



### UWOC Founder Honored by UAH

The founder and executive director of United Women of Color (UWOC) has received the University of Alabama in Huntsville 2021 Alumni Achievement Award for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

A native of Syracuse, N.Y., Angela Curry started an organization to empower girls and women to address civic and educational gaps for advancement.

She will receive the award at a special dinner (\$30/ticket) scheduled October 28 at UAH.

The Tennessee Valley community is mourning the October 16 death of longtime city councilman, educator and public servant Richard Showers, Sr.

A native of Lillian, Ala., in Baldwin County, Showers graduated from Alabama A&M University in agribusiness education before embarking on a near 40-year career in public education.

Dr. Showers was elected to serve as councilman for District 1 in 1988, and he devoted many years to bringing jobs and better quality of life to north Huntsville. Career highlights include the North Huntsville Industrial Park, a Toyota plant and the naming of a major highway after slain civil rights martyr Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Showers served as a

board member of numerous professional, civic and community organizations. He used his talents, skills and expertise to add value to the organizations' respective missions.

He retired after decades of service on July 1, 2005, from Huntsville City Schools, where he was a Career Technical Education Teacher. He also held the positions of industrial arts teacher, vocational education teacher, adult education teacher, and adult education coordinator.

Dr. Showers and his longtime wife, Bettye Ann, were the proud parents of five children: Richard, Jr., Felicia, Jenise, Gwen and Wanda.

**Funeral service** was set



for Thursday, October 21, at 11 a.m. at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (Huntsville) with **interment** Friday in Lillian, Ala. **Public viewing** was slated for Nelms (Chapel) Wednesday, October 20, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Thursday, 9-11 a.m. at Union Chapel. **Family Hour** was set for Wednesday, October 20, 6-7 p.m. at Nelms (Chapel).



## Drake Students Awarded National Space Club Scholarships

Two Drake State Community & Technical College students suited up this week at the National Space Club - Huntsville 33rd Annual Dr. Wernher von Braun Memorial Dinner #spaceprom for a special honor.

The space club awarded Engineering Design student Jonathan Lovell (above) the Aerospace Technology Scholarship and recent Engineering Design graduate Joshua Driskill (below) the Engineering and Science College Scholarship.

The funds will help Driskill and Lovell with tuition and fees. Driskill's scholarship will follow him to The University of Alabama in Huntsville.



## Bradford "Motorcade" Nears

Friends and supporters around North Alabama and beyond are invited to participate in a Benefit Motorcade Parade honoring The Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. and Mrs. Nell Lane Scholarship Foundation, Inc., on Saturday, October 23, 2-4 p.m. at Louis Crews Stadium.

Participants should remain in their cars; enter the Stadium from Industrial Drive and Taylor Road; follow route according to guidance; donate to Fund (optional); and "wave."

For more info, contact Jacqueline McGlathery at (256) 651-6565.

**The Valley Weekly**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

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# Washington in One Minute



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

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House and Senate are in session this week. The White House continues to negotiate with key Members of Congress on the cost and content of President Biden's Build Back Better (BBB) Act, with the President floating a price range of \$1.9-\$2.2 trillion (down from the original \$3.5 trillion). Two subcommittees of the House Natural Resources Committee will hold a joint field hearing today in Irvine, CA, on the Oct. 2 oil spill from the Amplify Energy Pipeline, which allowed thousands of gallons of oil to be released into the water off Southern California. News outlets reported Sunday that a team of federal investigators are now theorizing that, during a prior visit, the Panama-registered MSC DANIT ship struck a 40-centimeter steel pipe during a heavy storm in January 2021, when its anchor dragged for an unknown distance.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** Next week, President Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden will travel to Rome for the G-20 Leaders' Summit on October 30-31, starting with a visit with Pope Francis at the Vatican on October 29. After the summit, the President will travel to Glasgow, Scotland, to participate in the World Leader Summit at the start of the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-26).

3. **SUPPLY CHAIN MEETING.** Last Wednesday, President Biden met with business

leaders, port leaders, and union leaders at the White House to discuss delays and congestion across the transportation supply chain, especially pertaining to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach (the point of entry for 40% of containers to the U.S.). After the meeting, the President announced the following: The Port of Los Angeles will expand to 24/7 operation and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) announced its members are willing to work the extra shifts.

4. **MODERNA/J&J BOOSTERS.** Last week, the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee voted to recommend Johnson & Johnson vaccine 2nd doses for people 18 years and older

at least 2 months after their 1st shot and Moderna vaccine 3rd doses for people over 65, people 18 to 64 with medical conditions that increase their risk from Covid, and people who live in or work in places that increase their risk from Covid (similar to the guidance for Pfizer boosters). The panel also discussed, but took no formal vote on, whether to allow so-called "mix-and-match" boosters, in which people get a booster different than their original vaccine, and whether the age cut-off for getting a booster of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines should be lowered from age 65 to 40. On Oct. 26, the FDA committee will meet to discuss data from Pfizer's vaccine trial among children aged 5 to 11, which could allow authorization for children under 12 between Halloween and Thanksgiving. You can watch the virtual meeting here: FDA advisory committee link.

5. **INTERNATIONAL VISITORS' BAN LIFTED.** Last Friday, the White House announced that it would lift COVID-19 travel restrictions for fully vaccinated international visitors flying into the country starting Nov. 8 if they have vaccination proof and a negative COVID-19 test,

ending a ban that had barred much of the world from entering the U.S. for the past 21 months. Unvaccinated U.S. citizen travelers will need to be tested within a day before returning to the U.S., as well as after they arrive home. The order does change U.S. land border policies, which will continue to restrict much of the cross-border travel with Mexico and Canada.

6. **DEPOSITION ORDER FOR DONALD TRUMP.** Last Thursday, the New York Supreme Court ordered former President Trump to give testimony under oath today (Monday) in a videotaped deposition for a lawsuit brought by Mexican human rights activists who allege that Trump Tower security guards physically assaulted them and destroyed their signs outside the building in 2015 as they protested then-candidate Trump's disparaging comments about Mexicans. The suit is one of at least 10 civil cases pending against the former president. In other news, on Tuesday evening the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol is expected to cite Trump Administration aide Stephen Bannon for criminal contempt of Congress for fail-

ing to comply with a committee subpoena to appear for a deposition last week.

7. **EDUCATION.** The Biden administration is developing plans for how it will restart the collection of federal loans in early 2022 when the pandemic pause on monthly payments for tens of millions of Americans ends. The Education Department is considering proposals that would give borrowers new flexibility as they face student loan bills for the first time in nearly two years, such as an initial grace period for missed payments. Officials are also examining policies to make it easier for millions of borrowers to remain enrolled in income-based repayment

programs to avoid sudden increase in their monthly payment amount and a sweeping plan to expunge the defaults of borrowers who were struggling prior to the pandemic. The plans, which are still in progress, are intended to avert a potential surge loan delinquencies when payments resume in February.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

## HAVING A SOLID FOUNDATION

Matthew 7:24-25 says, *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

You know, when we read this scripture, it describes two distinct types of foundations that we can build our lives upon. One is the stability of rock, while the other one is the instability of sand. Now, in this scripture, it doesn't say that you can't build your house on sand, it just illustrates the expected end when you do.

Now, that word *foundation* means the basis, or groundwork of anything. Whether it be a house, or a marriage, or any kind of

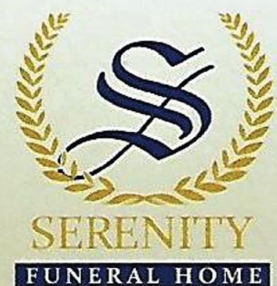
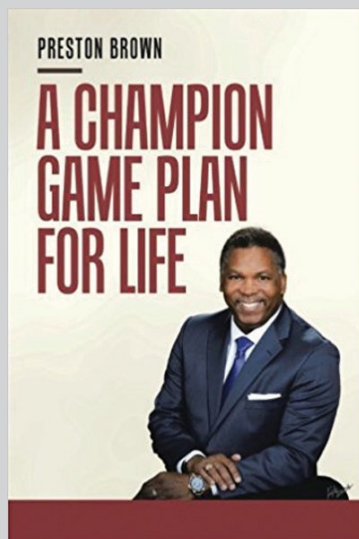
relationship, it all starts with a solid foundation that you can build on. The same can also be said about our finances, because in order for us to plan for an uncertain future, it all starts with being prepared for the "what if's" in life that will come.

In this scripture, Jesus was clear on this, because he tells us in his word that when the rains come, and they will, and when the streams rise and the winds of life come and beat against your house, your house will not fall because it was built upon the stability of the rock, not the instability of the sand that changes every day. But the good news is this, it's never too late to start building your life on the rock. And for those that



don't know, the "Rock" is Jesus ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

Make sure you purchase your copy of my book, *A Champion Game Plan For Life*, at amazon.com.



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## A New Generation Of Service



### October 23

AAMU First Lady's Scholarship Luncheon  
Ernest L. Knight Reception Center  
11 a.m.

### Puttin' on the Jazz Motorcade Parade

Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. and Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford  
Scholarship Foundation  
Louis Crews Stadium  
2-4 p.m.

### October 24

Historic Marker Dedication  
Recognizing Huntsville's Black Suffragists  
Sponsor: Historic Huntsville Foundation, WHCAA  
William Hooper Council Memorial Park  
620 St. Clair Street  
Huntsville, Ala. - 2 p.m.

### October 30

Magic City Classic  
Legion Field  
Birmingham, Ala.  
2:30 p.m.

### November 5

Alabama A&M University  
Alumni Hall of Fame  
www.aamu.edu/alumni-halloffame

### November 6

High School & Community College Day 2021  
Louis Crews Stadium  
8:30 a.m.

### November 20-21

Exotic Pet Expo  
Jaycee Community Building  
Airport Road SW  
Huntsville, Ala. - 4p.m.

### December 11

Retirement Banquet  
AAMU President Andrew Hugine, Jr.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY DEATHS



## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189  
Funeral service for Hon. Richard Showers, Sr., (b. 1945) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for MR. ROBERT FORMAN (b. 1945) was held Monday, October 18, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. BILLY RAY DUKE (b. 1968) was held Saturday, October 16, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Memorial service for MS. BETTYE DONALDSON (b. 1966) was held Saturday, October 16, at Saint James Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Billy Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MR. WYION VERSHION FLETCHER (b. 1984) was held Saturday, October 16, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with Elder Mario Ford officiating.

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481  
Memorial service for MRS. OLLIE CALLOWAY JONES (b. 1942) was held Monday, October 18, 2021 at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Graveside service for MRS. MARY ANN KING FLETCHER (b. 1930) was held Sunday, October 17, at Faith Memorial Park (8100 Madison Blvd, Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Damon Betts officiating.

Funeral service for MR. ROGERS CALDWELL (b. 1950) was held Saturday, October 16, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Roy Pope officiating.

Graveside service for MSG (Ret.) CALVIN HOLLWAY (b. 1947) was held Saturday, October 16, at Indian Creek Cemetery (Plummer Road and Indian Creek Road) with Pastor Timothy Rainey officiating.

Funeral service for MR. QUENTAVIS SHAQUAN FLETCHER (b. 1997) was held Friday, October 15, at House of Hope and Restoration Church (2525 Aspen Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Chase Williams officiating.

## SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693  
Funeral service will be held Saturday, October 23, for APOSTLE LAMONT SMOTHERS, SR. (b. 1976) at Indian Creek Baptist Association at 11 a.m.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time for MRS. PATSY PRISCILLA MILLER COBB (b. 1959); and MS. SHERYL ELAINE RACHEL (b. 1955).



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# ALL FOR THE FAMILY

The gut-wrenching pandemic has many issues many families were already experiencing. Breast cancer is one of them.

**October is Breast Cancer awareness month. The theme is "It's Time to Rise."**

Each year, 1 in 8 women (almost 13%) will develop invasive breast cancer (BC) this year. Men also get breast cancer. Almost everyone knows someone who has or has succumbed to BC.

I am a two-time survivor of BC. During my first episode, I could only receive two treatments of chemotherapy because invasive blood clots prevented me from getting additional ones.

Sixteen months later, the cancer recurred and I underwent radiation for several months.

Thanks to our graceful, merciful and all-powerful God, I have been breast-

cancer free for 21 years.

## What Can Be Done to Prevent and Treat BC.

While wearing pink, sponsoring forums where uncompensated survivors share their stories, and displaying banners are commendable, collaboration among renowned cancer researchers, hospitals and clinics, recommend that one can also do the following:

1. **Purchase** only products that contribute a substantial amount of the proceeds to research.
2. **Contribute** to small businesses generated by BC survivors.
3. **Donate** directly to research by flagging your donation to a specific organization.

Additionally, volunteer, stay in touch with someone



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

who has BC, participate in walks and runs, and help share facts and information.

### ~Think About It~

If you or someone you know is affected by BC, offer your services and resources to help him/her cope effectively with this life-altering health crisis.

### Sources

American Cancer Society  
Mayo Clinic  
National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.  
National Cancer Institute

## AAMU Students Experience Emotional Day in Montgomery

Arranged by service and learning coordinator Monica Clarke, nearly 80 Alabama A&M University students, faculty, staff and administrators were part of a group visiting the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) facilities recently in Montgomery, Ala.

Clarke said attendees were fortunate enough to not only meet EJI founder Bryan Stevenson, but they also heard from Anthony Ray Hinton while touring the New Legacy Museum and The National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Stevenson founded EJI over 30 years ago as a private nonprofit offering legal representation to people illegally convicted, sentenced unfairly, or abused in jails and prisons. The organization opened the much-acclaimed



Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Ala.

Hinton is an activist, writer and author who was wrongly convicted of the murders of two fast food restaurant managers in Birmingham, Ala., in 1985. He was held on death row for nearly 30 years before his release in 2015.

Clarke stated that the students "really enjoyed" the trip and were deeply moved by the museum visits. About 25 participants from the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) also visited the EJI complex, said Clarke.

## 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.

## Share Your Virtual

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## Huntsville City Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council Regular Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th

Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m., Downtown Huntsville.

Watch the meetings live via HuntsvilleAL.gov/HSVTV or on the

City of Huntsville Facebook page (@huntsvillecity).

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

*"Dreams don't work unless you do."*

- John C. Maxwell



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**My Ego-holism’s New Roommate: Diabetes (Part 1)**  
“... a thorn in the flesh was given to me, ... lest I be exalted above measure.” - 2 Cor. 12:7b, NJKV.

On November 14, 2019,\* my own recovering ego-holism got a wake-up call - and a roommate.  
During my quarterly doctor’s appointment, he informed me from my blood testing that I was now a diabetic, as I had just reached its 6.5 floor. He then began to outline some attack strategies for recovering.



**However, . . .**  
The primary attack strategy that he failed to cover was one that he was not trained in medical school to address. Diabetes itself then spoke up.  
As if a U.S. Marine Corps drill sergeant, Diabetes came nose-to-nose with me, barking, “Well, well, new recruit allston: You’re mine now. Welcome to boot camp.  
“Ah, don’t tell me: You thought that all your Bible-quotin’, church-goin’, vegetarian-meatin’/vegan-eatin’, 10,000-steps-walkin’, signifyin’-’bout-other-folks piety would somehow exempt you from me. Well, think again, . . .  
“You’re no different, son. . . just the one out of your 10 fellow Americans, one out of your seven fellow Alabamians, and one out of your four fellow 65 and older AARP-ers - all with diabetes. You need to kiss your ‘ol self-righteous arrogance good-bye, . . .”

**Roommate Déjà Vu?**  
I was somewhat familiar with diabetes, from my ongoing bouts with ego-holism. They’re mirror-twin roommates, both housed in my body. Yours, too. For example:

Diabetes	Ego-holism
A progressive disease in which our bodies produce excessive sugar/glucose that cannot be used, thus causing serious problems	Without God, our sense of self (ego) produces excessive amounts of arrogance and pride (big egos) and/or low-/no esteem and feelings of inadequacy (little egos)
Each of us has “diabetes potential” within us which, like cancer, surfaces when excessive levels are reached	Again, “self” detached from God’s management, will grow to dangerous levels, resulting in ego-holism.
“There is no cure for diabetes, but it can be managed” (Living with Type 2 Diabetes” booklet, American Diabetes Association)	Ego-holism cannot be cured, solved or eliminated, but in partnership with God, we can manage it.

Join me in subsequent columns, where I parallel my ego-holism and diabetic recovering journeys.  
Certified life coach tim allston is the author of the free book, 7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for “Someone Else,” downloadable now at [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com).

*\*Hmmm, what a coincidence that the day of my quarterly appointment on which my doctor announced that I had diabetes, again, was November 14, World Diabetes Day. Albert Einstein: “Coincidence is God’s way of remaining anonymous.”*

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Alabama Department of Labor

(866) 234-5382

[labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov)

MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(256) 539-3711

LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health

[www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

TAKEOUT/ DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

<https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/>



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# **CALLLED 2 PREACH**

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## **A Good Place to Be**

1 Corinthians 4:3-4

Life has a way of pre-



senting to us ways to learn what I call the vernacular of vicissitudes. That is, if we live long enough, we will get to the place where our *language and lingo* changes.

Solomon called them seasons in Ecclesiastes, but those same things that Solomon called *seasons*, some use the word *place*. We hear it in statements like, "I have gotten to the *place*..." You can fill in the blank. The Apostle Paul shared with those critical

Corinthians in his day, the *place* he had gotten. Three things he let them know.

First, it was *personal*. He started out with these words, "But with *me*..."

The second thing was that he realized that it did not happen overnight; it was a *process*. He called it "a *very small thing*..."

This suggests that it had not always been that way. It

was through the *process* of living that what was once a big thing, had shrunk in significance.

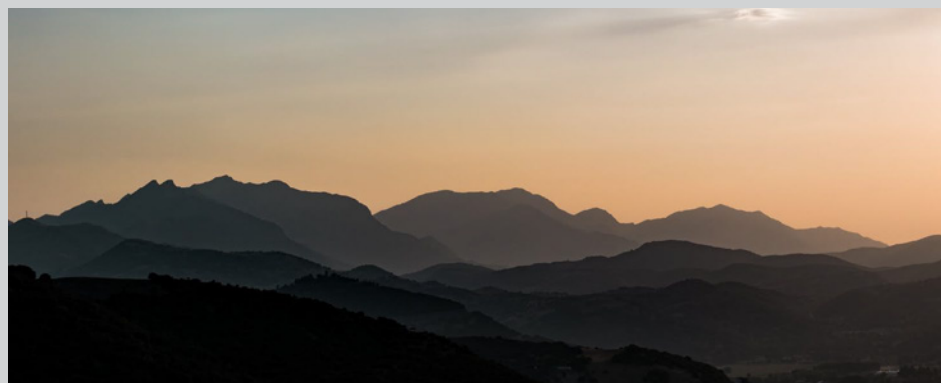
What was that thing? Being judged by others. He did not even judge himself, instead he left that to the

Lord.

That *personal process* led to the third thing; he no longer *permitted* the opinions of others to matter to him.

Paul had been through enough of the vicissitudes of life to reach the place where he was saying, "I am not the least bit concerned."

I am sure you would agree with me; that's a *good place to be*.



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**OCTOBER 22 - DEONTAY WILDER - An American professional boxer. As an amateur he won a bronze medal in the heavyweight division at the 2008 Olympics. He is a two-time winner of the Premier Boxing Champions Knockout of the Year award, in 2016 and 2017.**

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com







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

## Dr. Horace W. Rice

Dr. Horace W. Rice is a professor of business law and ethics in the College of Business and Public Affairs at Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, Ala. He received his AA degree from Chicago City College, his B.S. degree from Alabama A&M University and his J.D. degree from the University of Toledo in Ohio. He has also served as an adjunct professor of business and labor law at Oakwood University in Huntsville and the University of Alabama in Huntsville's School of Business. He has been a visiting professor at the Florida Institute of Technology and Dakar University, Senegal, West Africa. Moreover, he has received invitations to teach summer classes from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Rapids and Anaheim University in California.

As a certified corporate arbitrator and mediator by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and the American Arbitration Association, he has adjudicated 100-plus business and labor disputes for corporations and various governmental agencies in the public and private sectors. As a consultant to corporations, agencies and unions, his service has covered venues at the local, state, regional and the national levels.

His professional affiliations include membership in the Academy of Legal Studies in Business, the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution and membership on the following National Arbitration Panels: AAA, FMCS, United States Postal Service, National Football League and the Ohio State Impasse Panel. Further, he has accepted invitations to present his research at the following National and International conferences: Global Conference of Business and Economics, Harvard University; Boston; American—Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences, Las Vegas; International Academy of Business Disciplines, Las Vegas; American Business Law Association, Atlanta; and American Arbitration Association International Conference, Senegal, West Africa.

Dr. Rice is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and is listed in Who's Who International based on his activities in national and international affairs. He has accepted several invitations from the



American Arbitration Association in New York and the Citizens Ambassador Program in Washington, D.C., to serve as an international delegate to

lecture and present papers on international business law and arbitration for business and labor organizations and universities in Moscow, St. Petersburg, London, Paris, Stockholm, Senegal, Egypt and Brazil. Other foreign enrichment travels include Canada, Peru, Mexico, East and West Africa and the Caribbean.

As an author, Dr. Rice has published one book chapter and more than 40 articles, cases and abstracts. Further, he has published in many national and international journals, including Global Review of Business and Economic Research; Labor Arbitration Awards; Bureau of National Affairs; Labor Relations Reporter; LRP Publications; and others. His research interests include the areas of business and labor law, ethics, corporate governance, dispute resolution systems, international business law, labor management relations and white-collar crimes.

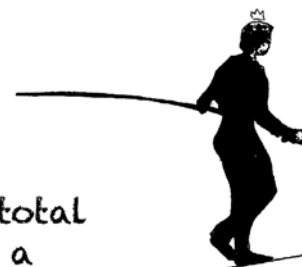
"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). 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](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



## PowerShot

"I found out that total creativity involves a certain intellectual rebellion... To be totally creating, you have to do things that are a little bit forbidden."

Philippe Petit



John

*"When you stop having dreams and ideals--well, you might as well stop altogether."*

- Marian Anderson

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A few years back, while teaching in the Art magnet program at Lee High School, I was approached by Alka Barghav, founder and executive director of the AUM Foundation, regarding an art design for t-shirts and promotions. The Foundation is named after the sacred “Om” sound and spiritual symbol in India.

At the time, I had no idea it was such an effective organization. We created a contest situation and Laila Cribbs, then a sophomore, won the contest. Her design was then used by the organization. I recommended her for the program. When she qualified, she became an AUM mentee and reaped major benefits from the experi-

ence.

Laila is now an art student at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. No doubt, the AUM Foundation played a pivotal role in her development. I had the honor of recommending other young ladies for the program. Each one of them is currently building a strong foundation in their chosen disciplines.

When Alka approached me about a work of art that could represent their program, there was no hesitation, based on their commitment to our community. I believe in sending my work out to work, to build, to invest.

This was a commission that was a true labor of love and belief in what they do.



Alka was impressed with the vibrancy of the artwork I created for Panoply 2020 and 2021.

I designed this piece called *Visionary*, in light of what the organization stands for and for what I knew they had provided for my students.

When I went to their headquarters, I was further impressed by the art collection there. To see what our young ladies are exposed to, made my sense of accomplishment all the sweeter. It's an honor to collaborate with businesses that see value in art. They have vision and are willing to put revenue behind that vision.

There are individuals and institutions here that



recognize the power of art to not only affect change in and beyond the Rocket

City, but also to aesthetically fill the space within and around us.

## First IMS Women's Conference Scheduled

Women throughout the Tennessee Valley area are invited to participate in the first annual Interfaith Mission Service's Conference for Women. The special conference will delve into “ways to recover from the added stressors” on women brought on by COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed and, in many cases, worsened several ongoing problems in our society. In particular, gender inequality and women's issues have been intensified by the pandemic.

During this seminar, Valley women will be brought together to share how we can heal our mind,



body, and spirit in the wake of the pandemic.

Join organizers as they work toward a brighter future for themselves and our communities.

Women are invited free of charge. In lieu of tickets, their heartfelt donation of

any amount will be greatly appreciated at registration.

Speakers include Delois H. Smith, Monretta L. Vega, Laura Watson, Gail Lind, Elizabeth Bahar, Bhavani Kakani, Deborah Au-Alrub, and Carolyn Foster.