

Scenes from Strategic Aging Initiative - p. 9

FREE



Supporting the Grieving - p. 6

Friday
October 27, 2023
Vol. 10, No. 8
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

GLORIA B: "A Much-Needed Break" - p. 5

The Valley Weekly

PRESTON: *Roses Among Thorns* - p. 3

SALUTE!

Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Laura B. Clift

"It's an artist's duty to reflect the times in which we live." - Nina Simone

Decatur Protestors Hold Press Conference on Perkins Killing

Protestors stemming from an officer-involved shooting of Steve Perkins in Decatur, Ala., held a press conference Friday, October 20, at City Hall.

The press conference followed a response from Decatur police chief Todd Pinion and organizers highlighted false arrests and harassment.

Perkins was killed on September 29. Home security footage, they say, shows he was shot dead in less than 10 seconds of encountering police officers. The community has been protesting and seeking the arrest, termination, and prosecution of the Decatur police officers involved.

The leaders of Standing in Power, a coordinating racial justice group designed to increase awareness and stand against oppression, added that peaceful protestors and neighbors of Perkins were "being falsely arrested and harassed." Terrance Adkins and Aneesah Lige are co-founders.

Statement from Concerned Oakwoodites Following Meeting with University's Trustees

We appreciate the invitation from Oakwood University Board Chair Dr. G. Alexander Bryant to meet with members of the Board regarding our concerns. We view it as a modest first step, though we believe it could have been more productive.



While we thank the board members' for listening to and engaging with us, we are disappointed that we left without a board commitment to a specific course of action nor a timeline for receiving one. The good news is that while the Board deliberates, Concerned Oakwoodites also will be contemplating our next steps.

Hopefully, we can find common ground with the Board moving forward. But if not, we will remain vigilant in our efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and corrective action at our beloved Oakwood University.

AAMU Band Exceeds Its \$500K Fundraising Goal

Thanks to the overwhelming support of Bulldogs everywhere, the Alabama A&M University Marching Maroon and White Band has officially raised over \$500,000 for its upcoming trip to New York City to perform in the 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Funds were raised through various initiatives and student-led efforts.

"The outpouring of support we've seen from alumni, parents, and fans



has been incredible," said Band Director Carlton Wright. "We're appreciative of how everyone in the AAMU family came together to make this happen for our students."

The band is scheduled to travel to New York on Monday, November 20, for five days of festivities, including a performance of

Low Mill: Monster Bash Halloween Dance

Get ready for the most spine-chilling and electrifying night of the year at the Halloween Bash at Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment on Saturday, October 28, 7-11 p.m.!

Come dressed in the spookiest, wildest, or most creative costumes for a chance to win big in the costume contest. Step into a world of madness "as we transform the mill connec-



tor space with crazy decor that will leave you in awe," say organizers.

Brace for a hauntingly good time with TWO DJs! Flip C. & Miss

K will be spinning a mix of everything, from hair-raising tunes to bone-rattling beats.

Limited tickets (\$20) available: Grab yours by purchasing pre-sale tickets at <https://lowemill.art/events/monster-bash/>

The 7-Minute Book Review Challenge???

TVW Columnist Tim Allston's engaging new book, "Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus," also offers its readers a unique book review challenge.

Get the full details on Page 8!



The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Washington in One Minute, Page 2
Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 3
"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 4
Perspectives, Page 5
Sunday Lectionary, Page 6
Honoring Our Elders, Page 6
Valley Weekly Special, Page 9

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

Washington One Minute



by Ron Hamm

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

1. **CONGRESS.** The Senate is in session this week and is expected to vote on the nomination of Michael Whitaker to head the FAA (which has been without a Senate-confirmed leader since March 2022) and may take up President Biden's \$106 billion emergency supplemental appropriations bill he sent to Congress last Friday containing \$60B for Ukraine, \$14B for Israel, \$14B for the border, \$10B for humanitarian aid for Gaza, Israel & Ukraine, and \$2B for Indo-Pacific military financing (to counter China). All legislative business in the House remains on hold. Last Friday, the House voted down Speaker-designate Jim Jordan (R-OH) for the 3rd time with 25 Rs voting for other candidates and Rep. Jordan only garnering 194 GOP votes. In a closed-door session later Friday, the House GOP Conference voted to delete Jordan as its Speaker nominee and met at 6:30 p.m. Monday to hear from 9 new candidates, with House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-MN) apparently the leading contender. There was an internal GOP Conference vote to choose a new candidate at 9 a.m. on Tuesday (a full 3 weeks since ex-Speaker Kevin McCarthy was removed), followed by a vote by the full House on Tuesday or

later in the week.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.**

After a surprise trip to Israel last Wednesday, President Biden addressed the nation on Thursday night and announced he was sending a \$106 billion emergency spending bill to Congress on Friday containing funds for the Israel and Ukraine wars. On Saturday, he directed the carrier USS Eisenhower and its strike group to change course from the eastern Mediterranean (where it had been planned to join the USS Ford) to the Persian Gulf. On Monday, the President hosted an event on the economy and on Wednesday he welcomed Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

to the White House for an official event, including a State Dinner that evening. Last week, the White House announced that President Biden will host a summit on Nov. 3 with South American leaders on the migrant crisis.

3. **SUPREME COURT.** The Supreme Court on Friday put on hold a July ruling by a federal judge in Louisiana that would have curbed the Biden Administration's ability to communicate with social media companies about contentious content on such issues as Covid-19 and agreed to take up the Administration's appeal of the ruling. The case, *Murthy v. Missouri*, was brought by the GOP Attorneys General in Louisiana and Missouri and 5 social media users that were opponents of the pandemic lockdowns and mask

and vaccine mandates, who allege that the federal government violated their free speech rights in censoring false Covid information on the internet.

4. **SEAWAY STRIKE.** Canadian union employees on the 13 Canadian locks on the St. Lawrence Seaway (and the Welland Canal linking Lakes Erie and Ontario) went on strike Saturday night closing the Seaway until further notice (the Eisenhower and Snell locks in Massena, NY, operated by the U.S., are not affected by the strike but will be at a standstill with no ships coming through). Over 200 million tons of cargo move through the Seaway annually for a total of over \$16 billion, representing 30% of combined U.S. and Canadian economic activity and employment. The strike comes at the

peak season for shipping Canadian grain.

5. **HIGHER EDUCATION.** The Department of Education has announced that the 2024-2025 FAFSA form will be available in December, not October 1. While the delay is intended to implement changes to simplify the form, it also reduces the time for college officials to make aid offers to applicants. Prominent higher education groups including the American Council on Education and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities has pressed the Department of Education arguing that the lack of a specific release date could hinder a smooth rollout of the new form.

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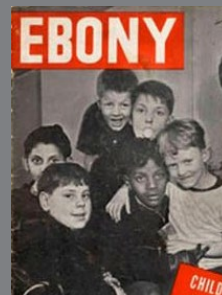
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ON THIS DAY



John H. Johnson published the first issue of Ebony magazine during this week in 1945.

- washingtoninformer.com

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
VALLEY DEATHS



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Graveside service for MR. WALTER H. STONE (b. 1928) will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 28, at Penny's Cemetery.

Funeral service for MR. JOHN SONNEE (b. 1984) was held Sunday, October 22, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor John Dees officiating.

Funeral service for MAJOR RONNIE STONE, U.S. Army, Retired (b. 1959) was held Saturday, October 14, 2023 at Saint James Primitive Baptist Church.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481 - www.royalfh.com

Funeral service for MRS. YVONNE RENNALLS-QUARRELS (b. 1966) was held Sunday, October 22, at the Mount Calvary Seventh-day Adventist Church (1201 Meadow Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Deshon Jucang as eulogist and Pastor Willie Taylor officiating.

Graveside service for MR. WAYNE PETTUS (b. 1958) was Saturday, October 21, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.) with Pastor Robert Jefferson officiating.

Funeral service for MR. HENRY ROBERT MYLES (b. 1948) was held Saturday, October 21, at the Deliverance Outreach Worship Center (3412 Mastin Lake Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Bishop Aaron Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MR. EUGENE LAWLER, JR. (b. 1946) was held Thursday, October 19, at the Fountain of Life Ministries (4015 Triana Boulevard SW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor James Strong officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW
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Funeral service for MR. ANTONIO "TONY" KIM-BROUGH (b. 1968) will be Saturday, Oct. 28, at 2 p.m. (Chapel).

Funeral service for MR. LARRY WALKER (b. 1946) was held Saturday, October 21, at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church, 7565 Greenbriar Road, Madison, Ala.

Graveside service for MS. GILLIE BULLOCK (b. 1964) was held Wednesday, October 18, at Northside Cemetery, 1700 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, Ala.

The Valley Weekly
Spiritual Game Plan
PRESTON BROWN'S



Roses Among Thorns

Philippians 4:8 says, "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things."

Someone once wrote that "Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns."

We are living in a time where, if we are not careful, it will become increasingly easy to see the bad things going on in our lives and harder to recognize all the good things. I realize that there is perhaps a reason for this. In the United States, we have a coronavirus that won't end, social and economic unrest, and so many things separate us and cause us to be bitter, not better. For example, we are separated by our race, by our politi-

cal stance, and by our social status. We are separated by those who wear masks in public and those who don't. It's enough to make you lose your mind and ask, "When will it all end?" The answer is this: it doesn't end.

However, there is hope. Our hope is in Jesus. Our hope is in our ability to ask Jesus to change the way we feel about the things that we cannot control. Our hope is in looking at life the same way

that Jesus looks at us, which is through the lens of love and forgiveness. That's when real change will come.

Real change only comes through the renewing of our minds. That's why the apostle Paul was right when he said, "If anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things."

For most of us, it's easier to be bitter, but much harder to be better, because being better requires more effort on our part. It's easier to be angry and stay angry than it is to love and forgive one another. Remember that



being angry only leads to hate, and you can never rise above the thoughts that you have in your head unless you replace these thoughts with better ones.

My hope for all of us is this. As we experience things that cause us to be bitter, let us view life through the lens of love and forgiveness and remember to "praise God for putting roses among thorns."

May God grant you spiritual success in seeing roses among thorns.

Question: Do you see the glass of water as half-empty or half-full?

Next Week: "Words Matter"

Stay encouraged my brothers and sisters and make sure you purchase a copy of my books, *Spiritual Game Plans For a Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com, Westbow Books or if you have a PayPal account, email me at prestonbrown81@gmail.com for an autographed copy.

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.

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A New Generation Of Service

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.

Valley Weekly
**VALLEY
 EVENTS**
 HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

October 28

Anita Baker
 Concert
 The Birmingham Jefferson
 Civic Center (BJCC)
 Tickets: Via Ticketmaster
 Birmingham, Ala.
 8 p.m.

November 4

Bulldog Football vs. Flori-
 da A&M
 Louis Crews Stadium
 Alabama A&M University
 1 p.m.

November 10

Veterans Salute Concert

7 p.m.

November 12

123rd Harvest Celebration
 Lakeside United Methodist
 Church
 Guest Speaker: Dr. Clar-
 ence Sutton, Superin-
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 3738 Meridian Street NE
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 (205) 975-ARTS

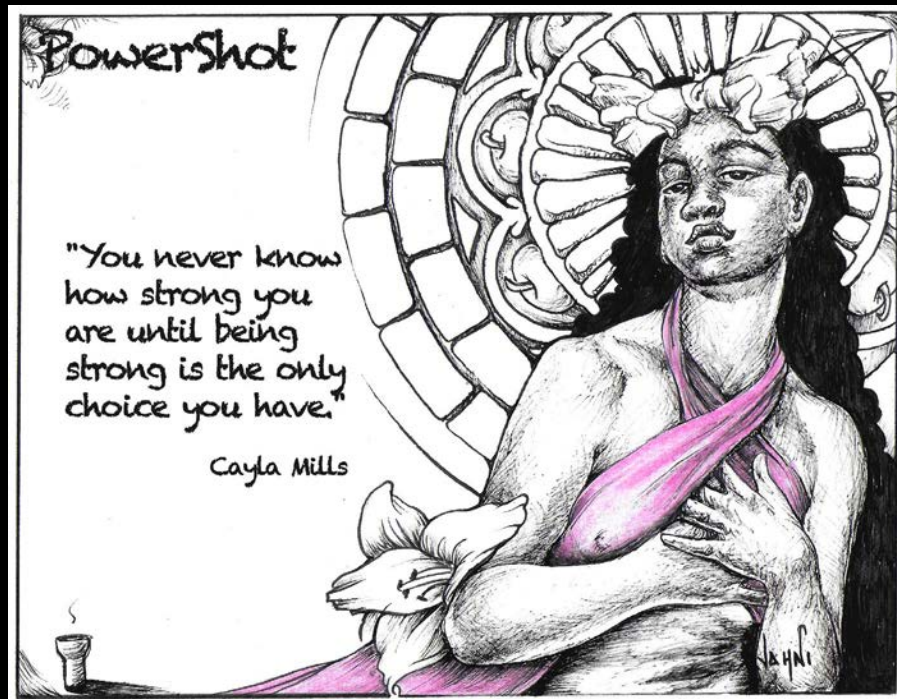
Tickets: <https://www.alystephens.org/events/gospel-celebration/>

November 17-19

Preacher Lawson
 "America's Got Talent"
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 2012 Memorial Parkway
 Huntsville, Ala.
 (256) 261-3374

November 18

Bulldog Football vs. Mis-
 sissippi Valley State



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*"In every truth, the beneficiaries of a system
 cannot be expected to destroy it."*

- A. Philip Randolph

“Much-Needed Break ...”

Millennial Moment

by
Gloria B. Caldwell

There are times when life throws some curves and you just need a moment to take a much-needed break.

Do not quit, just recover, pray, reset, and go again. That is OK. If we look at The Word, God rested. During this break, you need to rest in God.

What does that mean?

It means to spend time with Him, open up your heart and mind to Him, be silent, and listen for Him to speak.

Sometimes that means stopping all things that you have your hand in. When you are tired, or worn out, you are not able to give.

What you may be giving, may not be anything valuable. It may be emotional and not true wisdom.

It may be weak and watered down. It may not be your best whether at work, in your family, or in general.

To give your best, you have to be your best. Not THE BEST, YOUR best!

There is a quote that says, “Take care of your mind, your body will thank you. Take care of your body, your mind will thank you.” - Debbie Hampton.

This is so true.

They both go hand in hand. Don't lose sight

of the fact that YOU are responsible for both of them.

The Word says in Matthew 11:28 ESV, “Come to me, all who labor and

are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Take that Much-Needed Break. Take it with Him! Come back restored!

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it!



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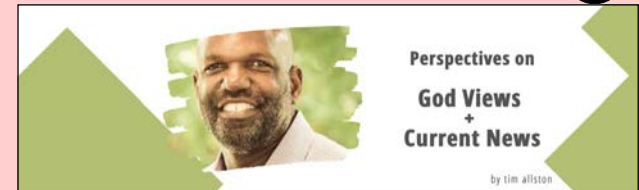
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168974



Q: Is Ja Morant this decade's Kobe Bryant?

What a difference a generation (20 years) makes - or, does it?

The NBA's 2023-24 season will begin on October 24 like its 2003-04 season without its troubled superstar guards: Ja Morant this year and Kobe Bryant in 2003.

The Memphis Grizzlies star's 2023 off-season antics in May of showcasing on social media his gun-toting caused both the NBA and his team to sideline him to start the season, according to the ESPN magazine article entitled "Then the alligators got him": Inside Ja Morant's 18-month downfall.



Similarly, Kobe Bryant's 2003 off-season sexual assault charge by a 19-year-old hotel worker caused him to miss his Los Angeles Lakers' opening season games.

In my new book *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus** bonus chapter 15, "Is Ja Morant this generation's "Kobe Bryant 2.0"?" parallels the two stars' triumphs, trials - and hopefully, Morant's comeback.

Excerpted from *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus*:
Our Three-point Play from Morant?

1. Lights, Camera, Action:

Social media and fame remind us that there are no more secrets!

2. God's Grace: Kobe fell publicly after reaching the top - three straight NBA titles and varied league MVP awards - but Ja fell on his way to the top. Nowadays for you and me: make your improvements sooner rather than later. And

3. Wilderness 101. His first suspension in March for eight games involved him publicly brandishing a gun; it was followed by a second identical incident in May for which he was suspended for the season's first 25 games.

These two back-to-back suspensions can constitute a Morant "wilderness experience."

Leadership expert Dr. John C. Maxwell teaches that every (moral) leader must experience the wilderness.

Here "motives get purified, backbones solidified, and callings clarified."

Hopefully, these suspensions will course-correct Ja Morant.

Perhaps it's a good time for him to put aside the basketball and instead, pick up the Bible. The Moral of the Morant story?

Let Ja Morant, this generation's Kobe Bryant 2.0, serve as our poster child of do's and don'ts. We should learn from his examples . . .

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



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

Mrs. Laura B. Clift

Mrs. Laura B. Ford Clift is the eldest of five children born to the union of Charlie Ed Ford and Ida B. Braggs. Born in Huntsville, Ala., "Laura B," as she is so affectionately known by her family, attended Councill Training High School in Normal, Ala., and graduated from William Hooper Council High School in Huntsville. It was at William Hooper Councill High School that she met Gene Arnold Clift. Both graduated the same year and later enrolled at Alabama A&M College (now AAMU), and then married on July 16, 1958. Clift received the B.S. degree in biology and a minor in mathematics in spring 1964. She later pursued and completed requirements for the M.S. degree in guidance and counseling and psychology, as well as K-12 certification in administration from the Alma Mater, AAMU.

Clift began her profession as a fourth-grade teacher at Councill Training School (1964-66). She later transferred to a different position in the Madison County School System at Farmer's Capital Junior High in Meridianville, Ala., where she taught science and math for 11 years. In 1975, Mrs. Clift transitioned to the Huntsville City School

System and accepted her first assignment as guidance counselor at Davis Hills Middle School. Here, she became the first African-American female counselor at this location following desegregation. After 15 years, she became the first African-American guidance counselor at Huntsville High School. Following four years there, she moved to the Annie C. Merts Center, the Huntsville City Schools Administrative Office, as the system's drug education coordinator. Embracing her love for educating youth, Clift accepted a position as first female assistant principal at Ed White Middle School. She remained in that position until her retirement in 2004.

Never being one to sit idly by, "retirement" did not "sit" well with her. After a year, Clift began to devote her afternoons to tutoring students at the Bo Matthews Center for Excellence. After four years of service there, she spent five years tutoring middle school students at the Northwest Community Learning Center. Although



she has retired from the Northwest Community Learning Center, she remains extremely active in her daily activities.

More than 50 years ago, Clift began her pilgrimage with the Lakeside United Methodist Church, following her marriage to her late husband Gene, who was also a native son of Lakeside. Her journey began as a sanctuary member, a soprano soloist who continues to lend her voice to the church's sanctuary choir. Since that time and throughout the seasons of her life, she has held numerous positions at her church.

Mrs. Clift expands her public service as a Golden Life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, where she has held almost every elected office and chair of most standing and ad hoc committees.

Mrs. Clift is immensely committed to her family. Her daughter Sheila Carol is also an AAMU alumna, and is married to Dale William Baxter. They have made her the very proud grandmother of two precious gems, Meaghan Dominique and Raven Shedale Baxter.

"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.



THE VALLEY WEEKLY ALL FOR THE FAMILY Support for the Grieving

During the past two months, three of my dear friends transitioned from their earthly home. Yes, death is natural reality that we will all experience one day. Nevertheless, it is a painful reality. I seriously contemplated on the best way to convey my condolences to the families.

Research reveals that bereaved families reported they were comforted when friends give something like home cooked meals - (one of their favorite dishes, if possible), practical gift cards, food and common staples such as water, paper towels, tissue and paper

products.

Another option is to offer support. You can give them a monetary gift to pay for a needed task, babysit if they have young children, offer to cut their grass or pay someone to help cleaning the house, run errands and/or address "thank you cards." Be there for them. Don't just say "call me if you need me." Show up! Be a good listener without judgment. Talk about the loved one.

Give them a hug of assurance.

Continue to call and/or text on a regular basis before and after the funeral. Encourage them to take a break by offering to take them to a movie, out for a meal, park, museum or theater. View precious memories or view photos of the loved one with them,

or accompany them to shop or run an errand. Respect their grieving process. Everyone grieves differently. There is no set timetable for grieving. One day they may vent. The next time, they may

cry on your shoulder.

Being there, listening and offering practical support are realistic ways to help comfort a grieving family or friend.

- Margaret Kelly, Ph.D.



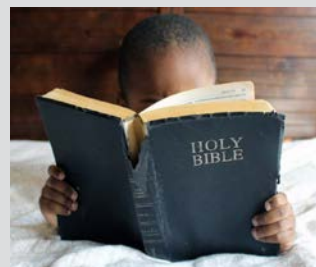
Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

OCTOBER 27 - SAMANTHA LOGAN - Samantha Jade Logan is an American actress. She is best known for her starring role as Nona Clark in the ABC drama series "666 Park Avenue." Logan was later cast in ABC's soap "General Hospital" as Taylor DuBois. In 2014, she joined the cast of "Teen Wolf" when the series returned to MTV for its fourth season. She also recurred as Tia Stephen's on "The Fosters" and was a guest star on the 300th episode of "NCIS." Logan was born in Boston, Massachusetts. She is of Irish and Trinidadian descent.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, October 29, 2023

Twenty-Second Sunday
after Pentecost

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalm 1
Second Lesson:

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

GOSPEL:
Matthew 22:34-46

AKAs Host Annual Get-Acquainted Tea for Prospective Debs

Sunday, October 15, 2023
Ernest L. Knight Center - Alabama A&M University
Click [HERE](#) for Photos by J. Saintjones



Local Church Prepares for Century-Old Harvest Event

Lakeside United Methodist Church continues to move forward fulfilling the mission of loving and leading people to Jesus Christ by following, sometimes, traditions. The upcoming celebration of the **123rd Harvest Celebration** commemorates the first observation on November 3, 1901, in the church edifice on Jefferson Street in downtown Huntsville, AL. It started as a festival of Harvesting during the season of the gathering of crops, a season of rejoicing for the crops and a festival to give thanks for the abundance of food enjoyed by many.

Today, the expanded traditions continue in the decorations, worship and songs, children's pantomime to the hymn, "Bringing in the Sheaves", memorial tributes, and the invitation to follow the Harvester of souls. The speaker for the 2023 celebration on **November 12, 2023**, during the 11 a.m. worship service at the church, 3738 Meridian Street, NE, Huntsville, will be Dr. Clarence Sutton, superintendent of Huntsville City School System. Please join us in celebratory worship.

As the world situations change, our celebration has taken on greater awareness of Lakeside's role in our community. We are striving to join others in raising awareness of hunger that exists in all parts of the world, particularly, in our community and the significance of the church in today's world. On **November 18, 2023**, Lakeside will sponsor a **turkey with trimmings giveaway** at the church. For additional information, call the church at (256) 536-9400.

TVW Columnist Launches Latest Book with “7-Minute Book Review Challenge”

The Valley Weekly columnist and author Tim Allston asks readers: “Which would you prefer to read immediately to write an Amazon book review ...

- *My 164-page, 31,405-word latest book, Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus;*
- *Or, a quick-read 2-page summary of that same book, published recently in a faith-based magazine, page 27, https://bit.ly/45zs0iI?”*

Allston would like his prospective readers to quickly read the book summary and then submit their 2-3 sentence book reviews to Amazon’s Customer Review Page, <https://amzn.to/3S2swTa>.

“Summarily, *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus* shows how the last five winning NBA championship dynasties won by mimicking the servant leadership model of Jesus Christ,” explained the three-time Amazon best-selling author.

Customer book reviews are the gasoline of book publishing; they help readers make informed decisions about what books to purchase and read.

“Believe me, your customer book review on Amazon can be seen by as many as 310 million shoppers for new and creative books.

“Using the Bible, *Where*

Jump Shots Meet Jesus actually predicts the characteristics of the next winning NBA championship dynasties!”

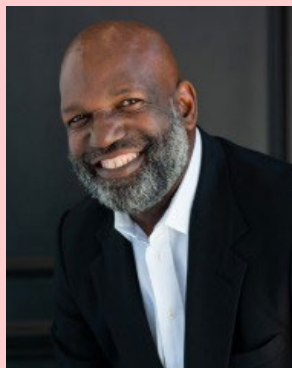
Simply, Allston is urging readers to:

1) Download, and read the book’s summary (a quick 7-minute read), page 27, <https://bit.ly/45zs0iI>;

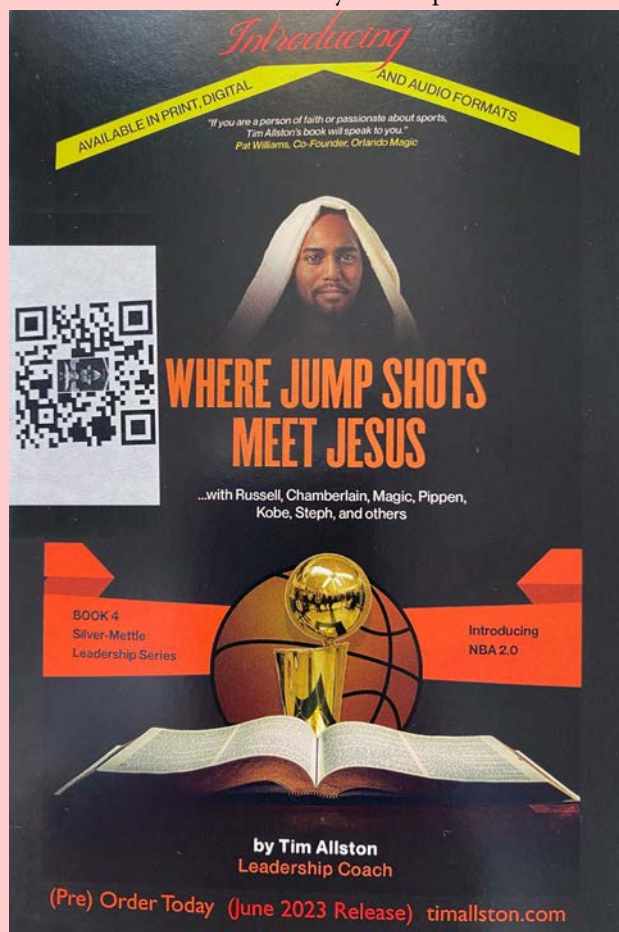
2) Write their thoughts on the book in 2 or 3 sentences; and

3) Submit it for publishing worldwide to Amazon, the world’s largest bookstore, <https://amzn.to/3S2swTa>.

“Finally,” adds Allston,



“send me a copy of your book review (info@timallston.com) and receive from me free of charge your sampler of the au-



diobook version of *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus*.”

NOTE: Purchase *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus* at either www.timallston.com



Saintjones Concept/DALL-E3

Huntsville Approves ‘Hands-Free’ Ordinance for Road Safety

The Huntsville City Council has approved an ordinance that restricts the use of wireless communication devices while driving.

During its October 12 regular meeting, the Council voted to green-light an amended ordinance that would upgrade the City’s existing no-text ordinance from a secondary to a primary offense, allowing officers to stop a driver when they see a violation and issue a citation.

In a secondary offense, officers can only issue a citation if there is another reason to stop the driver.

Council approved the new ordinance, to begin Jan. 1, 2024. The law will also prohibit drivers from doing any of the following while operating a vehicle:

- Using a wireless telecommunications device to write, send,

read or otherwise engage in any text-based communication;

- Watching, recording or capturing a photo or video;
- Engaging in voice-based communication while holding a wireless telecommunications device; or
- Physically holding or otherwise supporting a wireless telecommunications device with any part of their body.

The Council also agreed to adjust fines for convictions within a 24-month period as follows: \$50 for a first conviction; \$100 for a second conviction; and \$150 for a third conviction and/or community service.

Police Chief Kirk Giles said officers support the amended ordinance and

his department will use the first six months of the year to educate police and the community, without issuing citations.

District 2 Council Member David Little sponsored the ordinance and its amendments, which the Huntsville Police Department supports. As someone who was critically injured in a distracted driving-related car accident in 2008, Little called the new law a “win-win” for Huntsville.

“Our existing ordinance is very hard to enforce, so I’m thankful to my colleagues with the City Council for voting to strengthen this law,” he said. “Nearly 15 years since I was seriously hurt in a crash caused by a distracted driver, I’m grateful to be here today and will continue to be an advocate for safer roads.”

- Huntsvilleal.gov

Virginia Caples Lifelong Learning Institute (VCLLI) & Extension's "Successful Aging Initiative"

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church - Huntsville, Alabama

Click [HERE](#) for Photos by J. Saintjones



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