

# The Valley Weekly

Volume 2, No. 9

Friday, November 6, 2015

FREE

*"There is something about poverty that smells like death. Dead dreams dropping off the heart, live leaves in a dry season and rotting around the feet."*  
- Zora Neale Hurston

## AAMU Board Meets in Birmingham

The Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees on Friday, October 30, made Andre Taylor its president pro tem. Velma Tribue of Dothan, Ala., will continue as secretary. Although Taylor was unable to attend it, the meeting, over which Tribue presided, spanned about 90 minutes and covered a number of action items.

The board also accepted as its executive committee the following members: Dr. Hattie Myles, Dr. Jerome Williams, Velma Tribue and Chris Robinson. Robinson also headed a presidential review committee (with Trustee Gina Harper and Trustee John Hudson) that noted AAMU President Andrew Hugine, Jr.'s accomplishments in terms of the 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation, enrollment increase, financial stability, boosts in private donations, the launching of a new strategic plan and the establishment of the AAMU Confucius Institute. In a subsequent report from Faculty Senate President Jeanette Jones, Hugine was praised for having developed "a harmonious relationship" with faculty. SGA

President Aaron Dixon reported no major issues pertaining to the students.

The review team also called for continued improvements on Hugine's part in enhancing communication, customer service, relationship building and economic development opportunities in north Huntsville. Harper's recommendation followed the presidential review report to extend Hugine's contract via negotiations with the Board's executive committee carried 6-2-1.

**Academic Affairs:** The board voted to establish the Virginia Caples Lifelong Learning Institute. It also approved a Spanish/Latin American culture concentration; a sports management minor; certificate programs in logistics and cybersecurity; and the launching of an accelerated computer science degree program. Further, the board gave a nod to realignments of the College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences, and the College of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences.

**Business and Finance:** The board

voted to renew AAMU's line of credit with Region's Bank. Also, students who utilize the campus' bus transportation will be able to follow the location and estimated time of arrival of the bus in real time, thanks to an app developed by Transloc and coordinated with the AAMU's Information Technology unit.

**Fundraising Goal Increased:**

Because it had met and exceeded its initial campaign goal of \$16.25 million (raising \$19.74 million before the September 30, 2017, cutoff date), Archie Tucker, AAMU's chief fundraiser, sought and received board approval to raise the campaign goal to \$22,187,500.

**Student Affairs:** Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Crosby received approval for the implementation of a composite predictive index (CPI) that would provide clarity to the university's admissions policy, as more higher education institutions are veering away from standardized tests as the only predictors of college success. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.



**Generally Magic:** General and Mrs. Dennis Via almost quietly slip through the gates at Legion Field unnoticed during the 74th Annual Magic City Classic in Birmingham, Ala. (Photo by Jerome Saintjones)

## Valley Area's Civil War Round Table to Meet

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin Street in Huntsville.

Thomas R. Flagel will make a presentation on "Enemies No Longer: The 1913 Civil War Veterans Reunion at Gettysburg." The Reunion is considered "the largest Civil War reunion ever

held."

More than 50,000 veterans came together for the Golden Jubilee of Gettysburg to commemorate each other, to find peace, and to observe a milestone anniversary.

In a multimedia presentation, Flagel, an author and professor, will look at these veterans of blue and gray who returned to Gettys-

burg a century ago--"these men who shaped history"--to find how history shaped them. Moreover, much of the controversy about the Confederate battle flag, monuments to Confederate soldiers, and such can be answered by looking back to this reunion.

Past adversaries who tore at each other on countless battlefields later coming together in

camaraderie, remembrance and commemoration says it all.

Flagel teaches American history at Columbia State Community College in Franklin, Tenn. He is a national speaker on the Civil War. He also serves on several historic preservation boards, including the Carter House Museum, Franklin's Charge, the Franklin Battlefield Commission,

and the Friends of Fort Negley. Author of the successful History Buff's Guide series, Flagel also serves on several historic preservation boards and works closely with the Civil War Trust.

While visitors are welcome to the free program, an optional buffet (\$8.95) begins at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (256) 278-5533.

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- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home
- North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence
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- Sneed's Cleaners
- St. Bartley PB Church
- St. Luke Christian Church
- Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)
- Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

**90th Birthday Celebration of**

***Mrs. Rosetta James***

**Saturday, October 31, 2015**

*A Woman of Courage Celebrates Her 90th Birthday: About a 100 family and friends gathered at the Palladium Special Events Center on Sparkman Drive, Saturday, October 31, to celebrate Mrs. Rosetta James' 90th Birthday.*



# From the Editor



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**The Valley Weekly**

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Greetings!

The day was magical! Friends and family gathered from all around to join in the celebration and to offer well wishes to Mrs. Rosetta James on the occasion of her 90th birthday, which was October 31st.

The room was decked out in huge ferns, accented with seasonal mums in yellow, white and orange. Yellow roses were the emphasis, being that they are her favorite flowers. Lunch was catered by Tim Smith's Catering Creations, music was provided by the Tennessee Valley Jazz Society, and well-wishers were greeted at the door. The atmosphere was light and festive, with class and charm all around.

Dr. Annie Grace Robinson, a member of the Rosetta James Foundation Board of Directors, welcomed everyone to the lunchtime event. Rev. Carolyn Landry of First Missionary Baptist Church offered blessings for the delicious offering of fresh, assorted chicken, tuna, pasta and tossed salads, fresh fruit, peach cobbler and seasonal punch, served with assorted crackers and croissants.



Rev. Earla Lockhart, a Rosetta James Foundation Trailblazer, inspired attendees with words of meditation and inspiration about Mrs. James' church, civic and political work in the community. Mrs. James is blessed with longevity, so Rev. Lockhart focused on the many lives she has impacted in her missionary work, especially with the children of incarcerated women. Niece Taffie Dobbins offered a fitting tribute on behalf of the James and Jones families, regarding her contributions and advice to family members through the years, especially concerning "making something out of yourself." This was enjoyed by all.



Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., provided closing thoughts to the attendees. Always prepared and purposed, Dr. Bradford's words of wisdom were appropriate for departing guests. We marvelled at the number of 90-year-olds in attendance. I am convinced God is gracing them with "living water." They should give us a portion of what they are drinking! In addition to Mrs. James, Dr. & Mrs. Henry and Nell Lane Bradford, Mother Grace Love, Mother Thelma Fuqua, and Mother Caroline Smith were a few of the nonagenarians in attendance.

What a wonderful alternative to the Magic City Classic and Trick-or-Treat! Led by the Tennessee Valley Jazz Society, the audience sang "Happy Birthday" to Mrs. James and presented her a dozen yellow roses from Mr. Albert Morris of Albert's Flowers and Morris Greenhouses. Several individuals, small groups and individuals presented vases of yellow roses and cards. Members of the Foundation Board darted around the audience and gave each guest a bag of chocolate goodies as a parting gesture.

We hope you had a Happy Halloween. We did! Our was time well-spent. Until next week ...

*When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at [www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com).*

*Dorothy*

The Hamm Consulting Group



1. The House and Senate were in session for the week of November 7. The House was slated to take up the reauthorization of the surface transportation law, currently known as "MAP-21." Look for the Davis/Titus amendment to increase the share of Surface Transportation Program (STP) dollars going to local governments. The House may also take up a revised \$612 billion Defense Authorization bill with new funding numbers per last week's historic budget agreement.

2. The Senate could consider a bill to direct EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to issue a revised "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule that protects traditional navigable water from water pollution, while also protecting farmers, ranchers and private landowners. The WOTUS rule is currently on hold after a nationwide stay issued on October 9 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

3. Today, President Obama will travel to Newark, NJ to announce programs to help formerly incarcerated people reintegrate into society. The White House will unveil a new program to provide \$8 million in federal education grants over 3 years for former inmates and new guidance on the use of arrest records in determining eligibility for public and federally-assisted housing.

4. The House Financial Services Committee should meet to approve legislation, H.R. 2209, to direct federal agencies to classify all investment grade municipal securities as high quality liq-

uid assets (HQLA), which will amend a 2014 regulation which established a minimum liquidity requirement for large banking organizations and identified acceptable investments – deemed HQLA – to meet this requirement, but failed to include municipal securities in any of the acceptable investment categories. The legislation is strongly supported by the main local government advocacy groups, including the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the US Conference of Mayors.

5. 2016 Presidential Watch. On Sunday, representatives of the 14 GOP campaigns met in Alexandria, VA, to forge a consensus on demands for future debate formats amid a shared frustration with the perceived lack of substance and inter-candidate rancor during the recent CNBC debate (which caused the RNC to suspend the planned NBC/Telemundo debate in February as a penalty for CNBC's "gotcha" questions). Interestingly, the campaigns also blamed the RNC for the debate format and issued a call to cut the RNC out of the negotiations and deal directly with the TV networks. CNBC became the third network to garner record ratings with a GOP debate, pulling in 13.1 million viewers, a record for the network, which attracted just 3.1 million viewers for its debate in 2012. The next GOP debate, sponsored by Fox Business Network, is scheduled to take place on November 10.

6. Tuesday was Election Day.

## Huntsville Happenings

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.



conjunction with the sale of 6 acres of land associated with the former Councill Courts housing development.

Recently, The Huntsville Arts Council unveiled a new public art piece at Twickenham Square to celebrate the educational history of Dr. Sonnie Hereford III & Dr. William Hooper Councill.

The vision of Huntsville Housing Authority's Board of Directors and Twickenham Square Venture, LLC, the creative idea to place a piece of public art near the former sites of Fifth Avenue School and Councill High School, was conceived in

The \$100 Million development, Twickenham Square now occupies the former housing site and has transformed the area of Pelham Avenue into a vibrant downtown mixed-use community.

Named "We Gather Here to Honor," the piece was designed by Ohio-based tile artist, Angelica Pozo. During the unveiling, Pozo informed the crowd that the piece is sunflower-shaped



and that the flower petals were created from the footprints of Dr. Sonnie Hereford, III, city leaders and Huntsville community members.

Dr. Councill, an ex-slave, was a pioneer in education as he founded The State Colored Normal School, now Alabama A&M University, which trained African-American teachers.

Dr. Sonnie Hereford, III, a local retired African-American medical doctor who graduated from Councill High School and Alabama A&M University, staked his place in history when he enrolled his son in 1963 at Huntsville's all-white fifth Avenue School.

Sonnie Hereford, IV, became the first African-American student to attend a white public school in the State of Alabama.

"We Gather Here to Honor," cements and memorializes the historical legacy of Dr. Councill and the trailblazing efforts of Dr. Hereford, III, while celebrating the community's progressive accomplishments and aspirations for the future continued progression.

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.



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## AAMU Grad, TU Professor Gets \$1.1 Million Grant

The National Institutes of Health reports that of the estimated 1,658,370 new cases of cancer that will be diagnosed this year, nearly half of those people will lose their battle against the disease. For many cancer patients, early detection and proper treatment are the deciding factors between life and death, but Tuskegee University is working on revolutionary research to swing the odds in their favor.

"The broader impact (on the community) of this research may include shorter treatment times, cheaper costs, and decreased side effects, leading to improved patient prognosis, quality of life, and life span for many cancer patients," said Dr. Hadiyah-Nicole Green, an assistant professor in the Department of Physics.

The Veterans Administration HBCU-Research Scientist Training Program Career Development Award has awarded Green a \$1.1 million grant to work on a patent-pending 3-in-1-platform technology to target, image, and treat cancer. Utilizing laser-activated and tumor-targeted nanoparticles to treat tumors in a manner that is more localized and less devastating than chemotherapy and radiation, the project could give doctors a more efficient weapon in their arsenal to fight the disease. Part of the pending patent is a nanoparticle-enabled 10-minute laser treatment that results in ~100 percent tumor shrinkage.

Green is the principal investigator for the grant and she will collaborate with the Birmingham VA Medical Center and the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Services. She has been at Tuskegee since 2013 and holds adjunct appointments in the Department of Materials Science in the College of Engineering and

the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health.

Her project will provide the opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in interdisciplinary research.

"Dr. Green is one of our many fine STEM research faculty members whose engagement with our students is not limited to the classroom but extends into many different facets of campus life," said Dr. Brian L. Johnson, Tuskegee University president. "I heartily applaud Dr. Green on this well-deserved award."

Green graduated with honors from Alabama A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and a minor in mathematics in 2003. She received her doctorate in physics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has more than 10 years of training and research experience, initially in optics and nanotechnology and subsequently in the applications of nano-bio-photonics to cancer research.

- From Tuskegee University



## Statement from President Obama

I applaud the Democrats and Republicans who came together this morning to pass a responsible, long-term budget agreement that reflects our values, grows our economy and creates jobs.

This agreement will strengthen the middle class by investing in education, job training, and basic research. It will keep us safe by investing in our national security. It protects our seniors by avoiding harmful cuts to Medicare and Social Security. It is paid for in a responsible, balanced way – in part with a measure to ensure that partnerships like hedge funds pay what they owe in taxes just like everybody else. It locks in two years of funding and should help break the cycle of shutdowns and manufactured crises that have harmed our economy.

This agreement is a reminder that Washington can still choose to help, rather than hinder, America's progress, and I look forward to signing it into law as soon as it reaches my desk. After that, Congress should build on this by getting to work on spending bills that invest in America's priorities without getting sidetracked by ideological provisions that have no place in America's budget process. If we can do that, we'll help our workers and businesses keep growing the economy and building an America full of opportunity for all.

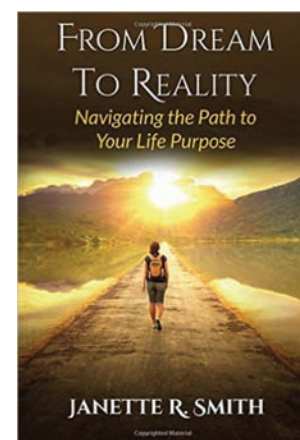
## Local Journalist Releases New Book

Janette Smith, an Alabama A&M University graduate, journalist and author, recently released her book, "From Dream To Reality: Navigating the Path to Your Life Purpose."

Smith is a compassionate and fiery certified life strategist and mindset coach most sought after for being able to help clients "push past stuck."

This former Emmy, Telly and Aurora-winning journalist and entertainment host interviewed, worked with, for and learned from, some of the great thought leaders of our age (e.g., Oprah, Dr. Phil, Iyanla, Creflo Dollar, Bishop T.D. Jakes, Fred Hammond and more).

Having grown up as the daughter of a United States Air Force Lt. Colonel, Smith developed a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of people



from all cultures and all walks of life.

Smith is currently an SI (Strategic Intervention) coach, keynote speaker, and radio host working from Huntsville, Alabama. Her book can be ordered on Amazon.com.

([http://www.amazon.com/Janette-R.-Smith/e/B016MZ9DZO/ref=ntt\\_dp\\_epwbk\\_0](http://www.amazon.com/Janette-R.-Smith/e/B016MZ9DZO/ref=ntt_dp_epwbk_0))

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## Some Post-Halloween Business Lessons

**Tech-or-Treat ...** It is that time of the year ... Holiday season! This is my favorite time of the year, as I'm sure it is for most entrepreneurs because of the boost in business that naturally happens during these months.

This past weekend kicked off the holiday season with All Hallow's Eve. The candy and costume companies made a killing; and probably enough to last them until next year. When I visited my nephew, he brought me up to speed with the "cool" costumes that the kids are wearing these days, which incorporates none other than an iPhone!

There are costumes that require you to download an app to make the costume animated. (iPhone not included) So this year, my nephew went as Cyborg. (Article photo, morphsuits.com) The costume is a mask that has an opening in the eye area for you to insert your iPhone. After you have downloaded the "Digital Dudz" app, the eye where the iPhone is located begins moving and doing all kind of freaky things.

These tech Halloween costumes are very trendy for our times. The trend for costumes

used to be scary; for adults, costumes became sexy; and now for this hyper-tech generation, they are digital. So to get in on all the digital fun, I decided to dress up this year as a robot!

Creativity (and the candy of course) has always been the best part of Halloween to me. I think it is pretty cool to see what people decide to dress-up as on the holiday that they can become anything other than themselves. Some people, like myself, even create and make their own costumes. When companies and businesses assist kids and adults in being creative and imaginative, they are adding to the family fun on Halloween, thus, making themselves profitable. Creativity is key for any business, whether it's for kids or adults. When you bring something unique to the market, people either talk about it or buy in to it. Even though the saying goes, "there's nothing new under the sun;" it just means that there's room to improve under the moon.

If your company or product caters to the holiday season, make sure it is creative, innovative, family-oriented, and fun.

by Amoi Savage

### Thru November 30

Alabama A&M University Designated Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month

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### November 14

Drop-In and Create Saturday  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

### November 15

"Celestial Dreams: The Art of Space Jewelry"  
U.S. Space and Rocket Center  
9 a.m.-5p.m.

### November 20

Annual Nobel Laureate Lecture  
Alabama A&M University  
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3 p.m.

### November 21

Funset Social and Charity Club  
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## Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation

# #94612

The Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation provides financial scholarship to undergraduate students who demonstrate sound academic principles; commitment to community volunteerism, civic engagement and unselfishness to assist others in Huntsville/Madison County.

The Rosetta James Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization with a 0% Administrative and Fundraising Rate (AFR). For additional information, contact (256) 536-9717 or write P.O. Box 17452, Huntsville, AL 35810.



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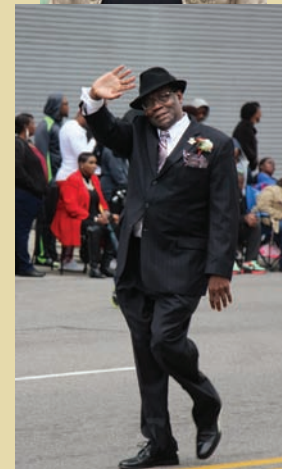
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74th Annual

# Magic City Classic

Saturday, October 31, 2015



# PowerShot

"When you are born into a world you don't fit in; It's because you were born to create a new one."

-The Stars Words

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"Life is accepting what is and working from that."

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**On This Day - November 6**  
**William Wells Brown** - Brown was a pioneer in several different literary genres, including travel writing, fiction, and drama. He wrote "Clotel or The President's Daughter," what is considered to be the first novel by a Black American, published in America.  
 - BlackInTime.info

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