

# Zetas Announce New Members - p. 6

FREE

## Get Warmth This Winter, p. 8

Friday  
December 2, 2022  
Vol. 9, No. 13  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Dr. Joseph Henderson

"Anything will give up its secrets if you love it enough." - George Washington Carver



## Huntsville Prepares for Annual Christmas Parade

For the eighth year, Mix 96.9 (WRSA-FM) and the Von Braun Center (VBC) will be hosting the Huntsville Christmas Parade on Thursday, December 8, at 6 p.m. The Parade theme is "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree!"



**25th!** Ivey's Barber Shop, LLC, a locally owned and operated business, recently celebrated 25 years of continuous business/service to the Huntsville/Madison County community. The owner, Minister Leo Robinson, marked this momentous occasion with a Customer Appreciation/Business Anniversary Luncheon on Tuesday, November 22. Mrs. Brenda Martin, City of Huntsville, presented a proclamation from Mayor Tommy Battle, proclaiming November 22, 2022, Ivey's Barber Shop, LLC/Minister Leo Robinson Day.



## A&M Commencement Stays on Campus



The nearly 500 undergraduate and graduate students scheduled to receive their degrees this fall will do so on the Alabama A&M University campus. AAMU graduates make history as the first class to graduate in the University's new 6,000-person capacity Event Center on Friday, December 9, at 10 a.m.



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## Drake Frontiers Program Unveils 3D Printing Robot

On November 14, the Frontiers Research Program at Drake State Community and Technical College demonstrated the unique capability to 3D print living spaces on the moon.

"Our Advanced Manufacturing students 3D-printed a two-sided, 7-foot structure," said the director of Grants and Sponsored Programs, Dr. Marina Kingsbury. "Each printing sprint will consist of 42 layers. This is a big deal for us because our demonstration will take place the same week that NASA is scheduled to launch its Artemis I mission at the Kennedy Space Center."

The Frontiers Research Program is a NASA sponsored Cooperative Agreement with Drake State and is the first of its kind to be awarded to a two-year institution and Historically Black College and University (HBCU). The cooperative agreement calls for specific research related to processes and materials used in large-scale 3D printing of structures.

Additionally, the Alabama State Legislature contributed funds towards the 3D printer acquisition and installation.

Drake State's partnership with NASA has helped the college dive into additive manufacturing research for NASA's Moon to Mars Planetary Autonomous Construction Technology Project (MMPACT).

The Frontiers Research Program also created a new curriculum for the Alabama Community College System to train additive manufacturing technicians who are well versed in using a variety of printing materials, including concrete.

Established in 1961, Drake State Community and Technical College is a historically black community college (HBCU) located in Huntsville, home to the fast growing, highly technical aerospace, and defense industry, including the NASA Marshall Flight Center, US Army Redstone Arsenal, and Cummings Research Park.



# Washington in One Minute



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

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House and Senate return to session this week. The House, among other items, will take up a Senate-passed bill to reduce firefighter exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in firefighting foam and personal protective equipment (note: on August 26, 2022, EPA issued a proposed rulemaking to designate PFAS as hazardous substances under the Superfund law). House Democrats will hold their leadership elections on Wednesday with Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) expected to take over as the Democratic Leader from Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), who is stepping down from her leadership role. The Senate is expected to complete work on the amended same sex marriage bill this week and send it back to the House for final passage.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** Last Saturday afternoon, the President and First Lady returned to DC from their Thanksgiving vacation trip to Nantucket, MA. On Tuesday, the President traveled to Bay City in central Michigan to visit a semiconductor manufacturing facility and on Wednesday the President and First Lady participated in the lighting ceremony for the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse. On Thursday, the Bidens hosted French President Emmanuel Macron and Mrs. Brigitte Macron for

the first State Visit since the start of the Covid pandemic, including the Bidens' first State Dinner that evening featuring entertainer Jon Batiste. Last Tuesday, the President announced that the Administration would extend the pause on student loan repayments through June 30, 2023, to give the Supreme Court time to rule on lower courts' orders blocking the student debt relief program, for which about 26 million Americans have applied for student loan forgiveness.

3. **RAIL STRIKE.** Last week, the SMART Transportation Division (rail conductors, brakemen, and switch men) voted to reject the Biden Administration's brokered contract deal, becoming the 4th union (of 12) to reject the deal with a national rail strike now possible as soon as next Monday (Dec. 5). Last Thursday, President Biden said that his Administration was involved in negotiations to avert a strike but added that he has not directly engaged on the matter. The American Association of Railroads estimates that a rail strike would cost the country as much as \$2 billion a day in supply chain disruptions.

4. **SUPREME COURT.** The Supreme Court starts its "December Session" Monday and will hear arguments in 9 cases through Dec. 7, including a free-speech claim by a Colorado website designer who opposes same-sex marriage (303 Creative v. Elenis) on Dec. 5 and a case whether the North Carolina legisla-

ture has the power to regulate federal elections without interference from state courts (Moore v. Harper) on Dec. 7. Last Tuesday, the Court denied former President Trump's request to block the IRS from handing over 6 years of tax records to the House Ways and Means Committee in an order announced without comment or recorded dissent. According to The Washington Post, the Treasury Department is expected to hand over the tax records to the committee this week.

5. **CRYPTOCURRENCY HEARING.** On Thursday at 10:00 a.m. EST, the Senate Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing on the collapse of the \$40 billion cryptocurrency exchange FTX, featuring testimony from Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chair Rostin Behnam. According to National Public Radio,

FTX (which has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy) has a substantial amount of assets that are stolen or missing. FTX celebrity endorsers Larry David, Tom Brady, Giselle Bündchen, Shaquille O'Neal, Stephen Curry, and others have been named in a class-action lawsuit accusing FTX of using deceptive means to entice customers to invest in the company.

6. **STUDENT DEBT RELIEF.** Last Wednesday, Republican-led states urged the Supreme Court to keep President Joe Biden's student debt relief on hold as their lawsuit to block the policy moves ahead, but also echoed the Biden administration's calls for the high court to definitively rule on the case. The GOP states, led by the attorneys general of Missouri and Nebraska, said they would support the Supreme Court taking up the legality of Biden's plan during its cur-

rent term, so long as it keeps the debt relief plan frozen in the meantime. It's not yet clear whether the Supreme Court will agree to take up the merits of the case or rule only on the administration's emergency request reversing an interim order from a lower court that is blocking debt relief. The Justice Department last week made the emergency request for the Supreme Court to reverse a lower court order blocking debt relief. But that request was based largely on the urgency of avoiding harm to student loan borrowers ahead of the now-extended Jan. 1 deadline to restart payments.

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### The Valley Weekly

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW  
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Funeral service for MRS. SHARON DOUGLAS PRIDE (b. 1961) was held Saturday, November 26, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with Elder Dr. Mario Ford officiating.

Funeral service for MR. EARNEST JONES, SR. (b. 1938) was held Saturday, November 26, at Owens Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with The Reverend Donnie Malone officiating.

Public viewing for MR. ALLEN CLIFF (b. 1964) was held Saturday, November 26, from 1-7 p.m. at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for MINISTER LAWRENCE EDWARD HARDIN (b. 1963) was held Tuesday, November 22, at the Consolidated Flint River and Running Water Primitive Baptist Association Memorial Tabernacle with Elder Lester Baker officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for MR. RAYMOND CARVER TURNER (b. 1944) was held Monday, November 28, at First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. ANNIE LEE HOOKER (b. 1927) was held Saturday, November 26, at the Greater First Baptist Church (1535 Warford Street, Memphis, Tenn.) with Reverend Daniel Gladney officiating.

Funeral service for MS. SHIRLEY ANN WHITE (b. 1952) will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, November 26, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Ave NW, Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MR. HAROLD LEONARD ANTHONY, JR. (b. 1967) was held Wednesday, November 23, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Elder Benjamin Jones, Jr.

Funeral service for REVEREND CHARLES EDWARD GLOVER, SR., (b. 1954) was held Tuesday, November 22, at the St. John AME Church (229 Church St NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Maurice Wright II officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for CATHERINE MCCANTS (b. 1958) will be announced at a later date.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN



BE THANKFUL

Philippians 4:6-7 says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God that transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

One of the ways that we can prepare for increase or promotion in our lives is to be thankful for what we already have. In other words, let us not forget to be grateful for what God

is already doing in our lives and for the talents that He has already given us, because when we are thankful, we create an atmosphere and a spirit of joy and peace that brings us inner strength.

When we are thankful, we guard our hearts and minds against our physical and emotional desires to complain about all of the things that we don’t have or that we can’t do. You see, we have to be careful about complaining, because when we complain, we remain stressed out

and in a place where no progress can be realized. Remember, life is about moving forward and not looking behind at past regrets or inadequacies. It’s all about what we do from this point moving forward.

I believe that this holiday season is a great time to remember to count the blessings that we do have

PRESTON BROWN

A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE



and to stop letting the enemy keep us from the blessings or the increase that God has for our lives by complaining about what we don’t have.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, “A Champion Game Plan for Life,” at amazon.com.



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**Thru January 2023**

Huntsville Museum of Art  
Presents  
"Donato Giancola"  
Downtown Huntsville  
Huntsville, Ala.

**Thru January 2**

Rocket City Christmas  
Light Show  
Toyota Field - 5 p.m.

**Thru January 29**

Winter Park  
The Orion Amphitheater  
TheOrionHuntsville.com

**December 1**

Comedian TK Kirkland  
Stand Up Live Huntsville  
7 p.m.

**December 2**

Marc Raby's "Soul Food:  
Tis the Season" - A Stage  
Play  
Mark C. Smith Concert  
Hall  
Von Braun Center  
700 Monroe Street  
Huntsville, Ala.  
ticketmaster.com  
7:30 p.m.

**December 2-4**

NEACA Craft Show  
South Hall 1 & 2  
Von Braun Center  
700 Monroe Street  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
(12-5 p.m. on Dec. 4)  
www.neaca.org  
Free Admission

**December 6**

Awful Night

Huntsville Havoc vs.  
Evansville Thunderbolts  
Von Braun Center  
6 p.m.

**December 8**

ROTC Commissioning  
Ceremony  
Alabama A&M Univer-  
sity  
Contact: Wenona Brown-  
Hamilton, (256) 372-  
4021  
Knight Center  
1 p.m.

Christmas Parade  
Downtown Huntsville  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6 p.m.

Karaoke Thursday  
Featuring DJ 808  
Reflections Lounge &  
Entertainment  
8694 Madison Boulevard  
Madison, Ala.  
(256) 542-3559

**December 9**

Fall Commencement  
Alabama A&M Univer-  
sity  
Event Center  
10 a.m.

Faith Covenant Academy  
Graduation  
East Hall 2  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.

Winter Tour  
Chris Tomlin X Mercyme  
Propst Arena  
Von Braun Center  
7 p.m.

**December 10**

Champion Chevrolet Holi-  
day Party  
South Hall Ballrooms 1 + 2  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.

Sneaker Ball Gala  
Purpose Event Venue  
8760 Madison Boulevard  
Suite J - \$65/\$100  
Attire: Formal (21+)  
8 p.m.-1 a.m.  
www.purposeeventvenue.  
com

**December 16**

BTL Presents  
"A Very Electric Christ-  
mas"  
Mark C. Smith  
Von Braun Center  
Times Vary

Jim Parker's Songwriting  
Series  
VBC Playhouse  
Von Braun Center  
700 Monroe Street  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5:30 p.m.

**December 18**

"WinterFest"  
The Foundation Coffee-  
house Maker's Market  
(Makers and Farmers)  
4701 Meridian Street K  
Huntsville, Ala.  
Vendor Spots Available  
12-4 p.m.  
TheFoundationHuntsville.  
com

**December 25**

Christmas Day

**December 31**

Huntsville Symphony  
Orchestra  
"The Doo-Wop Project"  
Mark C. Smith  
Huntsville Ala.

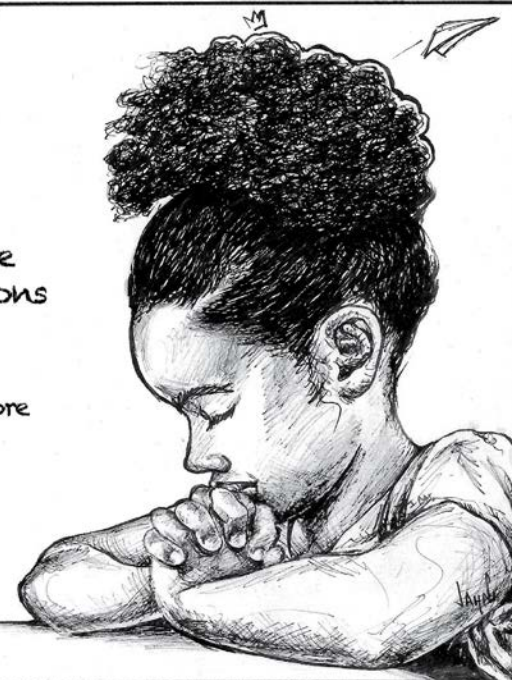
**January 13-15**

Comedian Kevin Freder-  
icks  
Stand Up Live Huntsville

PowerShot

"Gratitude opens the  
door for more reasons  
to say thank you."

J. T. Moore



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*"For we must be one thing or the other, an asset or a liability, the sinew  
in your wing to help you soar, or the chain to bind you to earth."*

- Countee Cullen

# Huntsville Hires Three Department Heads

Mayor Tommy Battle is appointing three new department heads to his administrative team for the City’s police, traffic engineering and cemetery departments.

Each appointee has been working in their respective role in an interim capacity and will officially become directors of their departments pending Council approval, which is now scheduled for the Dec. 1 regular council meeting.

Mayor Battle’s appointments include: **Kirk Giles** – Chief of Huntsville Police Department; **Nicholas Nene** – Director of Traffic Engineering Department; and **Tara Sloan** – Director of Cemetery Department

“I continue to be impressed with the talent in each of our departments,” Battle said. “Thanks to a rigorous hiring process, the City employs people with knowledge, expertise and skill as well as a desire to continuously learn and improve. The City is well-served by advancing staff from within and is thrilled

to see these excellent leaders in action.”

**Huntsville Police:** Interim Chief Giles is an experienced law enforcement veteran with 45 years of dedicated service to the Huntsville Police Department (HPD). He replaces former Chief of Police Mark McMurray, who retired March 1 after more than 30 years with the force.

Mayor Battle said Chief Giles was an obvious choice for the role of Huntsville’s top cop.

“Chief Giles’ vast knowledge in law enforcement and deep roots in our community have well prepared him for this position,” Battle said. “His experience and steady leadership will ensure our police depart-

ment is progressive and resilient and will grow even stronger relationships with our partners and community.”

**Traffic Engineering:** After working with the Alabama Department of Transportation for a decade, Nene joined the City’s Traffic Engineering Division, where he oversaw planning, programming, development and construction management for traffic and safety-related projects. In early 2021, he was promoted to Deputy Director of Traffic Engineering to continue to provide guidance and management of City systems. Nene earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Alabama A&M University and a master’s degree in urban

and regional planning with a concentration in transportation. With a passion for providing safe roadway systems through design and improvement, Nene said he feels a great sense of fulfillment in his role. **Cemetery:** Sloan joined the City 10 years ago as a dispatcher for Huntsville Fire & Rescue before transitioning to the role of Constituent Services Program Officer, where she managed the Huntsville Connect program. Her experience in data analysis and program evaluation made her a natural fit as a cemetery analyst and eventually the Interim Director of Cemeteries, where she has managed the City’s nine municipal cemeteries since 2020. - [huntsvilleal.gov](http://huntsvilleal.gov)



## Saluting House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s Legacy

*“But He that is greatest among you shall be your servant” - Matthew 23:11.*

When U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced on November 17 her stepping down from that post, she was immediately hailed by many as the greatest-ever speaker.

Those who saluted said what made Pelosi the GOAT (greatest of all times) was that she left them a trailblazing legacy of service.

Although the daughter of a former congressman, Pelosi possessed the common touch. She was an Everyman, representing the needs of ordinary citizens because she saw herself as one. “When I first came to the Floor at six years old, never would I have thought that someday I would go from homemaker to House Speaker.”

Her rise to leadership and service provided an example of what’s possible; her attack on the glass ceiling was an example even inspiring her peers. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) brought his four-year daughter Cricket to Pelosi’s November 17 speech, “to see a trailblazer for women’s rights and equality. . . Little girls like her will have countless more opportunities in life because Nancy Pelosi served.”

Her Speakership came when minority opportunities were expanding. In 2021, she presided over the most racially and ethnically diverse Congress: 124 Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander or Native American lawmakers, according to the Pew Research Center - a 97% increase over the 2001-03 Congress’ 63 minorities.

As she exits, she leaves not only the Obamacare victory but people groomed to lead. The 82-year Pelosi, her 83-yr old Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and 82-year old Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, announced they too will exit. They tapped 52-year old Hakim Jeffries (NY), 59-year old Katherine Clark (MA), and 43-year old Pete Aguilar (CA), respectively, as successors.

Although Pelosi leaves a Democratic minority, she leaves them positioned for potential growth - mimicking her spiritual mentor.

A devout Catholic, Pelosi’s Speakership exit and legacy follows Jesus’ earthly exit and legacy. At the top of Jesus’ game (Crucifixion and Resurrection), he exited (Ascension) but only after he trained his disciples to step up and further carry out his agenda (Christianity).

And they did so successfully, making Christianity the world’s largest religion with 2.56 billion current followers!

Pelosi’s and Jesus’ legacy of servant leadership should serve you and me well as we seek to show others how to effect proper leadership and service.

Start today and break some more glass!



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**A New Generation Of Service**



# Local Zetas Announce Newest Members



The ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Psi Alpha Zeta Chapter of Madison, Alabama, are pleased to announce the 15 newest members of their organization:

- Victoria Bilal
- Lanora Brooks
- Kimala Cox
- Megan Humphrey
- Deborah Hunter
- Dr. Noelle Hunter
- Cokilius Marshall
- Jamanda McInnis
- Carolyn McShan
- Cheria Moore
- Sabrina Oliver
- Elesha Robinson
- Val Schultz
- Katelyn Thomas
- LaTonya Williams

The chapter welcomed

its Fall 2022 new members on November 6, 2022, during a private ceremony.

Chapter President Tifany C. Vinson officially welcomed the new members with a reaffirmation of the sorority's purpose of "Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood and Finer Womanhood."

"We are honored to welcome these ladies into the illustrious sisterhood of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and the phenomenal chapter of Psi Alpha Zeta," said President Vinson. "We are very excited for the amazing things each of these ladies will do to uplift and support the communities of Madison County."

These new members have already begun working hard in the chapter and are helping to uphold the principles of such a notable

organization with their first service project as new

members by volunteering at the Manna House

(Huntsville, Alabama), where they sort clothing

for women and men in need of the items.

## Huntsville City 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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**DECEMBER 2 - TEA-IRRA MARI** worked with Jay-Z in his first collaboration project since becoming president of Def Jam Records, to create "Make Her Feel Good" along with producer Sean Garrett, the lead single from her debut album on Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam that reached number 35 on the Billboard Hot 100 and #9 on the R&B charts. It was heavily played on BET.

- *BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com*







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

## Dr. Joseph Henderson

Coach Joe Henderson was born in Hale County, Alabama. He received his high school education from U.S. Jones High School in Demopolis, Ala. He later earned both the Bachelor of Science degree in history and physical education and the master's degree in counseling and guidance from Alabama State University in Montgomery. Continuing his educational pursuits, Coach Henderson earned his educational specialist degree from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, in psychological counseling. He received the Doctor of Education degree in human development counseling from George Peabody College at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. He served his country in the U.S. Army as a military policeman for two years, becoming the first African-American to receive "MP of the Month" at Camp Casey, Korea.

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 Medalist, Jearl Miles Clark (Olympic Gold 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 men's sports to



seven (7) men's sports and six (6) women's sports. Under his administration, the only national soccer championship was won by Coach Salah Yousif.

Coach Henderson started the present Huntsville Metro Track Club in the early 1990's. The Club has had other names, such as Normal Track Club, AAMU Track Club and HMTC.

Coach Henderson has served as Vice President for the Alabama USATF. He was unanimously voted as President of the USATF Alabama (United States of America Track and Field) September 27, 2009 and again in September 24, 2011, for a second term. USATF is one of the largest organizations in the world, with over 60,000 athletes. Coach Henderson organized and coached a youth track club for over 20 years within the Limestone, Madison County and Huntsville, Ala., area.

"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@valley-weeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valley-weeklyllc.com).



## Foundation Grants Aim to Enhance Music Education for Area Children

The Mockingbird Foundation provides grants to schools and nonprofit organizations in the United States that focus on music education for children, an area of importance to the Phish fan community.

The Foundation is particularly interested in projects that foster creative expression in all musical forms, and encourages ap-

include the provision of instruments, equipment, texts, and office materials, as well as the support of learning space, performance space, and instruction.

The Foundation generally targets programs for children up to 18 years of age, but will consider programs that benefit college students, teachers, or adult students.

Applications associated with diverse or unusual musical styles, genres, forms, and philosophies.

Music education may

The Foundation gives priority to programs that benefit disenfranchised groups, including those with low skill levels, income, or edu-



cation; those with disabilities or terminal illnesses; and those in foster homes, hospitals, prisons, or other remote or isolated situations. Grants range from \$100 to \$10,000.

Initial inquiries are due January 15, 2023. Application guidelines are available on the Foundation's website. For additional information, visit <https://mbird.org/grants>.

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## This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, December 4  
Second Sunday  
of Advent

(Track 2 - Year A)  
Isaiah 11:1-10  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

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# Ensuring Warmth in Your Tennessee Valley Home This Winter

(BPT) - As days get shorter, temperatures fall and we begin to spend more time indoors, many of us are looking for ways to make our homes more snug and cozy.

After all, the winter months can be much easier to withstand when our homes become havens of warmth, calm and comfort. As British poet Edith Sitwell once wrote: "Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand, and for a talk beside the fire: It is the time for home."

The good news is that creating your own home haven need not be difficult if you understand how to create such environments through smart decor choices. With that in mind, here are five key decor elements that can go a long way toward making your home seem luxuriously warm and inviting - for both residents and guests.

## Soft and luxurious textiles

The upholstery, drapes, curtains, linens, bedding and throws you pick can

have a major impact on comfort levels. It may be worth spending more to purchase high-end textiles with high thread counts. One hundred percent cotton, bamboo or silk often feels best against the skin, but some luxury brands also use synthetic blends to their advantage.

## Rich-looking hardwood floors

Hardwood floors offer unparalleled warmth and beauty to any home regardless of its architecture and design style. And thanks to technology, engineered hardwood flooring now offers the extra protection needed to keep them gorgeous even under duress. LL Flooring's Era Collection line of engineered hardwood flooring, for example, is three times more impact- and scratch-resistant than traditional white oak hardwood flooring.

These floors are even water-resistant, built with cutting-edge 5G locking technology to help stand up to winter's toughest effects. What's more, this collection features ultra-wide, ultra-long planks in

stylish European oak.

"Engineered hardwood floors are a great home decor choice that offer the timeless appeal of hardwood with modern durability," says Jen Meska, Director of Merchandising at LL Flooring. "They're built to withstand changes in temperature and humidity in your home through all four seasons, while delivering the warm, organic benefits of hardwood that can make your home feel cozy and welcoming."

## Peaceful atmospheric lighting

Our natural human circadian rhythms dictate that warm yellowish-white light (as opposed to cooler blue light) helps us relax and unwind.

In general, light bulbs marked "soft white" or "warm white" will warm up any room. Lighting experts recommend using ceiling and non-symmetric wall lights to create the most comforting settings, but firelight and candlelight can also add a relaxing ambiance.



## Comfortable furniture

Plenty of manufacturers create furniture that's stylish but not particularly comfortable. If your pieces fit that description, you may wish to exchange them for styles that allow you to come in from the cold, settle in and fully relax.

Perhaps it's time to invest in a new pillow-top

mattress, a cushy sectional couch that can seat your entire family around the TV or dining room chairs comfortable enough for game-playing and lingering conversations.

## Warm color schemes

Because warm colors such as reds, yellows, oranges and yellow-greens tend to remind us of sun, sand, and heat, they can

make us perceive rooms as warmer and cozier. You may wish to boost that phenomenon by painting one or more of your rooms in those colors, or by choosing a neutral, subtly tinted tone in one of those shades. Many decorators suggest balancing the effect of intensely warm colors with accents in cooler hues.

With colder weather on the way, there's much you can do to make your home a haven of comfort for your family. Take steps now to evaluate your home and think about improvements that could make it warmer and more wonderful throughout the winter months.

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