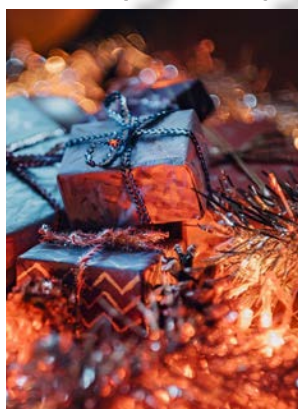


Gifts for Everyone on the List, p. 8

FREE

'Ten Times Better,' p. 6

Friday
December 17, 2021
Vol. 8, No. 15
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



The Valley Weekly

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



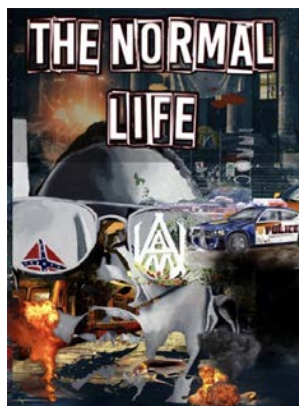
Wiley Henderson

An intellectual is someone whose mind watches itself. – Albert Camus

“The Normal Life” Film Project Expands

One would think that an extended holiday season would be enough to slow down even an industrious film team like the one with the upcoming movie, “The Normal Life.” Not so. Let alum Paul Graves tell it, the wheels have just started turning on the project.

“The movie project has taken off in all directions,” said the project’s key man. He added that the alumni film group has entered the movie script into a prominent pitch competition for HBCU students and alumni. The winner for that competition will be announced on Saturday, De-



cember 18, on TNT network, and Paul feels confident the team entry should make it among the top three finalists.

With that undertaking careening toward a countdown, Paul expanded the group’s vision even further: The Council Coin. “If you have heard the hoopla around Bitcoin and non-fungible tokens (NFTs),” said Paul, “we have created the first HBCU coin for the school. Every other HBCU will have to follow, because we will be the first to do it.” “We have a full plate of stuff working,” stated Paul. “It’s not just about a movie anymore. It’s grown into much more. It’s about the beginning of the future for the school, as well as a movie they can be proud of.”

AU Planning NPHC Plaza

Auburn University broke ground recently on its National Pan-Hellenic Council Legacy Plaza, a symbolic and functional space that will recognize and celebrate the legacy of Black Greek organizations and African American culture at the land-grant institution. The ceremony took place near Auburn’s recently opened The Edge at Central Dining facility.

HPL Continues Growth

Huntsville Madison County Public Library continues its strides as the state’s busiest system in 2021. Its patron visits include 615,717 to locations; 1,366,265 website visits; and 48,176 in program attendance.

While the HMCPL has completed five new building projects in a seven-year period (Triana, Calvary Hill, Madison, North and South), a larger online presence is being provided as an alternative to its brick

and mortar services in areas not close to a library.

Although the New Hope location was sold in late September, staff are looking forward to a new library nearby in 2022. A holds locker will be installed at

the Mark Russell Recreation Center in Hampton Cove next year.

Volunteers donated 3,067 hours, according to an HMCPL document on statistical and financial summaries.



Drake State Veteran Students Receive Christmas Gift from CVMA

Drake State Community & Technical College Veteran students can feel some relief in their grocery budget this holiday season. On Dec. 8, the North Alabama CVMA* 28-2 (Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association) provided each Veteran student a \$50 gift card to cover the cost of groceries and meals.

“It’s nice that they acknowledge Veterans who are students,” said Drake

State Veteran student Rose Carney. “Last year was really hard because of the pandemic. I encourage any Veteran who wants to start school to do it. When you don’t have a lot of support, they will support you.”

Students said Wednesday’s event meant a lot to them. The Combat Veterans association teamed up with Drake State’s Veteran and Military Affairs De-



partment to ensure students who may face food insecurities and financial challenges feel supported

through the holidays.

“Every day we are blessed to be in the company of Veterans because of their sacrifice to our country,” said CVMA* 28-2 Commander Patrick Reese. “We’re a group of Veterans supporting local Veterans. This is how we continue to serve after they leave the military. We take care of each other.”

Visit www.drakestate.edu for more information.

The Valley Weekly

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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 House and Senate (with the support of 10 R's) last week approved a special authority that expires on Jan. 16, 2022, that will allow the Senate to raise the debt ceiling by a simple majority vote (i.e., prohibiting a filibuster), thereby avoiding a U.S. default on the nation's \$28.9 trillion debt that could happen as soon as Wednesday (Dec. 15).

HOUSE. The House will take up the debt limit bill on Tuesday and will also vote to hold former Trump White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows in contempt for his refusal to comply with a subpoena issued by the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol. Meadows will be the 3rd former official to face a contempt charge in company with former White House advisor

Steve Bannon and former Justice Department official Jeffrey Clark.

SENATE. The Senate will take up the debt limit bill this week, as well as the new compromise version of the FY2022 Defense Authorization bill, which was approved by the House last week on a 363-70 vote (the bill contains a 2.7% pay increase for the military and civilian DoD employees and \$300 million in military aid to Ukraine). The Senate continues to work to assemble its version of the Build Back Better Act, which the House passed on Nov. 19 on a 220-213 vote.

On Friday, the Congressional Budget Office, responding to an inquiry from Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO), calculated that the bill would increase the deficit by \$3 trillion over 10 years if certain benefits in the bill were made permanent – chiefly the child tax credit that ends after 2022 in the House-passed version of the bill. To read the CBO's new analysis, click here: <https://www.cbo.gov/>

publication/57673. Politico is reporting this morning that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is "pressing forward on his repeated vows to finish work on the [Build Back Better Act] in the next two weeks."

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. On Saturday, President Biden approved an emergency declaration for Kentucky in the aftermath of a deadly tornado outbreak there late Friday night and is expected to visit the commonwealth to tour the damage this week. He will also meet this week with Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) to discuss Manchin's concerns about the cost of the \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better Act.

3. SUPREME COURT. Last Friday, the Supreme Court issued an 18-page ruling that will allow abortion providers in Texas to sue state medical licensing officials, but not state-court judges and clerks whom the providers had also tried to sue, regarding Texas' new abortion law that bars doctors from performing abortions starting around the 6th week of pregnancy.

The court denied the Biden Administration's request to put the law on hold. In related news, last Tuesday the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States voted 34-0 to submit its

300-page final report to President Biden on possible changes to the Supreme Court citing public support for imposing term limits but disagreement about adding additional justices to the court.

4. EDUCATION. On Friday, the Biden Administration announced that it is planning to unveil major education civil rights proposals that rewrite trump-era rules on sexual misconduct and create new protections for transgender students in April, a month earlier than it previously expected.

The new timeline for releasing the proposed Title IX rules comes amid complaints by

some advocacy groups that the Biden administration is taking too long to reverse the previous administration's policies. The new target date announced by the Department of Education is not binding but represents the agency's best estimate of when it plans to release its new Title IX proposal for public comment.

Ron Hamm

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This Sunday's Lesson

(Track 2)




Sunday, December 19, 2021

Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
Psalm 80:1-7

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Funeral service for MRS. AMY LEWIS DRAPER (b. 1927) was held Sunday, December 12, at Taylor's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church (3100 Stringfield Road - Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MR. WILLIAM B. TERRELL, SR., (b. 1975) was held Saturday, December 11, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Memorial service for MRS. MARIE B. GANBUZZUE (b. 1950) was held Sunday, December 5, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Graveside service for MS. ODEAL MARIE WILSON RICHARDSON (b. 1956) will be 11 a.m., Friday, December 17, in the Huntsville Memory Gardens (6810 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery officiating.

Graveside service for MR. PARRISH ZATRE LOWE (b. 1999) was held Monday, December 13, at the Oakwood Memorial Gardens (1 HL Cleveland Way Huntsville, Ala.), with Minister Diana Langford officiating.

Public viewing for MR. MARTINEZ MONTE' LYLES (b. 1996) was held Sunday, December 12, at the Royal Funeral Home.

Funeral service for REV. COLUMBUS M. COLLIER (b. 1950) was held Saturday, December 11, at the Phillips CME Church (2185 Winchester Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Janice Lewis officiating. Interment will be in Berkley Cemetery.

Funeral service for MRS. MARKITA DAPHENA BOOKER JOHNSON (b. 1967) was held Friday, December 10, at the First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Endia Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for MS. CARROL LOUISE PAGE (b. 1945) was held Saturday, December 4, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Reverend Kenneth Lankford officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MR. WALTER HOLLOWAY, JR. was held Saturday, December 11, at Serenity Funeral Home, 2505 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru December 23

Nights of Santa

EarlyWorks Children's Museum

5 p.m.

December 16

"Fresh Wreaths: What to Grow and How to Make Them" (In-person Class)

Huntsville Botanical Garden

Huntsville, Ala.

9:30 a.m.

December 16-19

The Living Christmas Tree

First Baptist Church of Huntsville

600 Governors Drive SW

Huntsville, Ala.

7:30 p.m.

December 25

Christmas Day

January 1

New Year's Day

January 2

Final 'Rocket City Christmas Light Show-Through'

Toyota Field

Huntsville, Ala.

5 p.m.

January 6

Comedian Josh Pray

TikTok, YouTube

Stand Up Live

Huntsville, Ala.

7 p.m.

January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

January 21

Rocket Awards

U.S. Space and Rocket Center

1 Tranquility Base

Huntsville, Ala.

5-8 p.m.

January 30

Harlem Globetrotters

Von Braun Center

Huntsville, Ala.

3 p.m.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

CREATED BY GOD FOR GOD

Ecclesiastes 12:13 says, "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

You know, we were all created by God for His pleasure. Now when He created us, He also created inside of us a special place that only He can satisfy. So, whenever we feel empty inside with feelings of loneliness, sadness or depression, it could be because of a "need" that can't be satisfied with money, sex or drugs. Or, it could be a "need" that can't be satisfied by cheering on your favorite team or

a "need" that your significant other can't satisfy, because we were made for God and we were made to worship Him only.

But the problem that we have is that when we don't worship God, we end up substituting it for other things like our relationships with other people. For example, being in love is a wonderful thing. However, without a relationship with God, there will always be a struggle to satisfy that other person, because, let's face it, people don't always satisfy you; only God can. Only God can fill the void that is caused by broken promises

that lead to discouragement and disappointments. Only God can fill the void of loneliness, sadness and depression.

So, since we were created by God for God, let us all allow Him to be in charge of everything that we do--because you will discover a life that is not only satisfying to you and for you but also pleasing to God.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my book, "A Champion Game Plan for Life," at amazon.com. It will make a great stocking stuffer!







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THE VALLEY WEEKLY ALL FOR THE FAMILY

"Tis the Season to Be Jolly"

Many of us will celebrate Christmas on December 25th. However, decorating, buying gifts, entertainment and travel, can fuel considerable stress.

According to personal finance experts, families should spend no more than 1.5 percent of their annual income for Christmas shopping.

Following are a few tips to help you have a merry Christmas and stay within your available income.

1. Plan how much you can realistically spend and stick to the plan.
2. Make a list of the people you will send cards and purchase gifts.
3. Take advantage of discounts and coupons.
4. Avoid impulse buying. If it's not on your list, don't purchase it.

5. Give a certificate to provide a "service" for someone.
6. Re-gift something you may have received, but can do without.
7. Bake a family member or friend a favorite dish.
8. Donate your service to a charity.
9. Spend time with family and friends.
10. Try not to overindulge on eating and drinking alcoholic beverages.
11. Attend an inspirational event.
12. Praise and thank God for giving us the ultimate gift, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

~Think It Over~

Christmas is considered a time to rejoice. However, some people are suffering from a serious illness.



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

Many are homeless, lonely, distressed and sad. By focusing on the "reason for the season," we can give our love, service and time to others. These three gifts are free and can fit all sizes.

Sources

American Psychological Association
Finical, Inc.
Fortunly.com
Statista

Commissioner Edwards' Open Letter to District Six

What a privilege it is to serve as commissioner of the sixth district of Madison County. These past twelve months have been demanding and rewarding. Great strides were made to rebuild a sense of community and purpose in the district. While the learning curve has been steep, sheer dedication and hard work have afforded District Six much success throughout this year.

As I enter my second year in office, I want to take a moment to highlight some of the great triumphs we have had, but also the work that we have in front of us. I began my term in the middle of a global crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on basic needs in District 6 - our health/healthcare, housing, and food insecurity. I turned to my tried-and-true method of praying, strategizing, coalition building, and taking action to get results.

Our COVID-19 Initiative was launched in December 2020, focusing on health, education, and COVID relief. Through partnerships, we supplied the community with protective masks, set up COVID testing and vaccination sites, produced virtual panel discussions, and helped secure federal



Ronald Pollard Photography

assistance for rent and utility payments for those on the verge of losing their shelter. That program ended in November after investing \$5.2M in Madison County.

Thanks to grants awarded by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Planning Organization, you will soon see land moving on the Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center campus. We will connect the campus to the community with additional sidewalks and lighting, improving the space for those with limited mobility. Perhaps the most exciting addition is a grand entrance afforded by a retaining wall that will showcase signage and landscaping while welcoming travelers from Pulaski Pike.

The District 6 Community Garden is booming. An \$18k grant allowed us to

purchase a tractor-pulled, quick-cut greens harvester. This equipment has taken the garden to new heights by cutting hundreds of pounds of greens an hour. The greens and thousands of pounds of squash, okra, corn, and beans were distributed across the county free of charge.

But this year has not always been easy, and I found myself several times on the road less traveled. I have taken some bold stances with the district at heart and learned invaluable lessons. I regret nothing. I enter my second year working to ensure your voices are heard in the redistricting process and will continue to fight for a fair and equitable county budget. As we navigate the road ahead, I value your support while tackling the district's most pressing issues, stewarding the people's money, and continuing to build relationships with city, county, state, and federal officials. We have limited resources yet growing needs in District Six; however, we can still accomplish many things if we work together.

It is a privilege and honor to continue to serve you every day. Rest assured, we have only just begun.

- Commissioner Violet Edwards



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Honoring 2021 Fallen Trailblazers: Yesterday’s Seed Planters of Today’s Mighty Oaks

Before Tiger Woods, there was Lee Elder; before Tyler Perry was Melvin van Peebles; 2021 home run slugger Marcus Semien succeeds Hank Aaron; Michael Jordan followed Elgin Baylor; televangelist Rev. Frederick K. C. Price foreran Bishop T.D. Jakes; Ava DuVernay followed Douglas Turner Ward; Irv Cross passed the baton to NFL sportscaster James Brown; and Cicely Tyson paved Viola Davis’ pathway, . . .



All of these trailblazing forerunners died in 2021. Each named successor validated their icon’s legacy.

Likewise, your successful legacy will be measured by those who follow you that you have mentored, either directly or indirectly. While inheritance, according to leadership expert Dr. John C. Maxwell, is what you leave for your family after you’ve died, legacy instead is what you deposited in them while you were still alive.



Legacy is best achieved through mentoring and modeling a pathway that you make for others to follow. The Apostle Paul declared in Hebrews 12:9 that, “we have had earthly Fathers who disciplined us and we respected them.” Author Lucia Ballas Traynar wrote similarly that “mediocre mentors tell, good mentors explain, and the greatest mentors inspire.”



Who are you trailblazing for today? What seeds are you planting today that with proper watering and sunlight can one day grow into mighty oak trees?

Start trailblazing and mentoring in your home, workplace and place of worship. And then surprise yourself at what you have grown from your inspiration.

And then surprise them with their potential, capacity for growth.

A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.

— Oliver Wendell Holmes

Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.

— Stephen Covey

The State Farm logo, featuring three interlocking ovals and the text "State Farm".

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A headshot of Mary F. Spears, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a dark blazer over a white top.

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A photograph of a bouquet of yellow and white flowers in a yellow mug that has a smiley face drawn on it.

The logo for Serenity Funeral Home, featuring a large stylized "S" inside a laurel wreath.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov

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

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CALL 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

Ten Times Better

Daniel 1:6-7; 19-20

The book of Daniel opens with the account of a courageous and convincing decision by Daniel to not defile himself with “the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank.” He did not vehemently protest, for the situation did not call for that at the time. Instead, he politely requested permission to be allowed to be fed



only vegetables and water for ten days. The understandably reluctant steward feared that he would be killed by the king when he saw their “faces looking worse” than the others who were their same age. That request would have been denied except for this; “God had brought Daniel into the *favor and goodwill* of the chief of the eunuchs.” God’s favor overrode the eunuch’s fear, and the request was granted. As a result of this divine keto diet, we are told that at the end of those ten days, Daniel and his three cohorts were inspected by the king, and he found them *ten times better* than all the other of the king’s men. How marvelous,



magnificent, and miraculous that had to have been for Daniel and “the three,” as they reflected upon how God used those “ten days”

to give them an outside confirmation of their inside conviction. The takeaway here is that when we follow God’s agenda, He provides

favor from unexpected places and persons that will give evidence that His way is always *ten times better* than our own.


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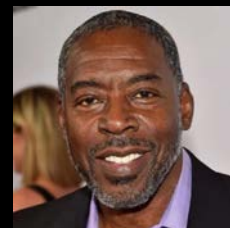
Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.

— Joshua J. Marine



DECEMBER 17 - ERNIE HUDSON - Earnest Lee Hudson is an American actor who has appeared in dozens of film and television roles throughout his career, but is perhaps best known for his roles as Winston Zeddemore in the Ghostbusters film series.

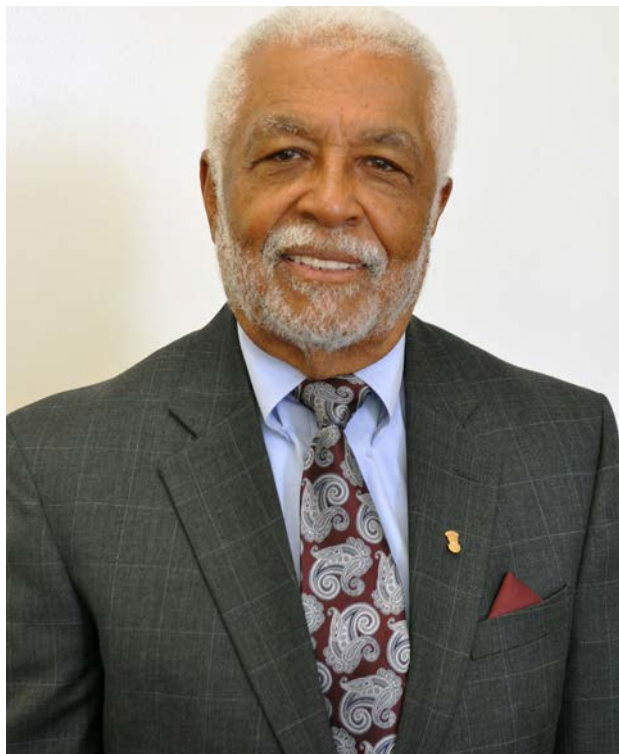
- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com





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

Wiley Henderson



Wiley Joseph Henderson was born in Clarke County, Alabama. He was a distinguished graduate, longtime employee and retiree of Alabama A&M University. He participated in further studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Auburn University, University of Tennessee and Central State University.

Henderson was actively involved in civic and community outreach programs for more than half a century. As a young professional, he organized a civic club to inform and increase voter registration in his rural south Alabama community.

He also helped to organize a federal credit union to serve minority educators. For several years, he served as chairman of the board for this organization.

Additionally, he completed terms as president of both the local teachers and parent teacher associations. While serving as president of the local Normalite Alumni Association, he coordinated annual fund raising activities for Alabama A&M University. He remained at the forefront as a leader in his church. While serving as chairman of the trustee board, he spearheaded a fundraising effort that resulted in the building of a new edifice. He also served as superintendent

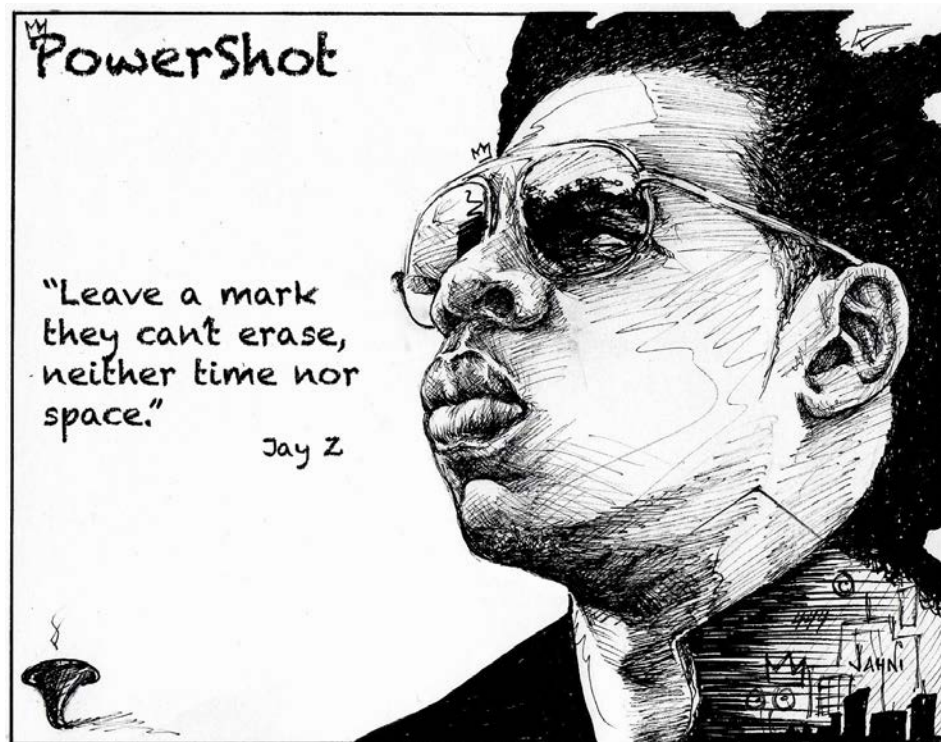
for the Sunday School.

Upon moving to Huntsville, he and his family affiliated with the NAACP, Alabama Democratic Conference, and First Missionary Baptist Church. He served as a board member for the Child Development Center at First Missionary Baptist Church, and as an advisor for the Fellowship of University Students. He participated in the Congregational Care and Keenage Ministries.

Over the years, Henderson skillfully used his fraternal affiliations as a venue for

community outreach. While serving as president of his undergraduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, he began a legacy of working with programs that enhanced the health, social and leadership skills of young black males.

He continued this legacy by serving in the office of undergraduate advisor for more than 20 years. He further expanded his outreach to youth by serving as a leader with the Boy Scouts of America. His community outreach continued through volunteer fundraising.



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"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@valley-weeklyllc.com.



Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas.
– Marie Curie

Five Experiential Gifts for Everyone on Our Lists

(BPT) - After celebrating anniversaries, birthdays and graduations through video chat, people are excited for in-person connection with friends and family. There is no better way to reconnect with loved ones than through gifting a new experience or favorite pastime to create lifelong memories. Below is a list of five experiential travel gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list - including the person who has everything.

1) Tickets to live events

For the friend or family member who shares new music before it hits the radio or is counting down the days to baseball season:

There's nothing quite like seeing your favorite band take the stage to play their

top hits live or sitting courtside to cheer on your hometown team. Hilton Honors offers fans the ability to pay for thousands of event Tickets with Points, on Ticketmaster.com or LiveNation.com, through its partnership with leading live entertainment company Live Nation. The loyalty program is also offering exclusive packages on its Experiences platform at hiltonhonors.com/experiences, ranging from music to culinary to cultural events. From general admission seats to VIP access, gifting just got sweeter by cashing in on loyalty rewards for these types of experiences.

2) Art class series

For the friend or family member who spends their weekends covered in paint and clay: From the painting

of Mona Lisa in Paris to the sculptures in Central Park of New York City, you can find beautiful art all over the world. Give the gift of craftsmanship through a series of classes with local artisans in their city or a far-flung destination. They can try their hand behind the potter's wheel or see professional glassblowers at work during a trip to Venice. If your giftee is an interior design fanatic who's always down for a DIY project, a woodworking or upholstery class could be the winner.

3) Culinary adventures

For the friend or family member who is constantly testing out new flavors in the kitchen: Culinary tourism is a growing trend as travelers are looking to indulge in unique, palate-expanding

experiences. For their next weekend getaway or long-haul jaunt, consider gifting a cooking class that dives into regional dishes and local ingredients. Culinary walking tours offer the best of both worlds as they can explore multiple neighborhoods while trying new cuisines. Whether you choose to delight in a romantic garden picnic or opt for an eight-course wine pairing dinner, you can book culinary adventures that will suit any taste.

4) Action-packed escapades

For the friend or family member who is always seeking their next adrenaline rush: From jumping out of planes at 14,000 feet to swimming with sharks in the Bahamas, this loved one has nerves of steel. Help them

chase their next adventure and give the gift of once-in-a-lifetime moments. Whether that be channeling their inner speed demon with a race car test drive or cheering on their daredevil nature with extreme whitewater rafting, these heart-pumping experiences are available around the globe, making it the perfect addition to their next vacation itinerary.

5) Wellness essentials

For the friend or family member who indulges in self-care daily: Known as a regular in the local apothecary shop and an avid self-improvement podcast listener, this giftee has mastered their wellness routine. Help rejuvenate their path forward with experiences they have yet to discover. From aerial yoga and tai

chi classes to 24-karat gold facials and cupping therapy, spa and wellness packages at hotels around the world will open the door to new cultures and opportunities to boost personal care.

Put a bow on top

Wrap any of these gifts up with a hotel stay! Many hotels offer unique experiences, so be sure to research or contact hotels in your sought-after destination to learn more. Plus, travelers who join Hilton Honors can earn Points - and status - faster when they sign up for the latest promotion and stay at any Hilton around the world.

So, get a head start on holiday shopping and put those loyalty rewards to use by gifting an unforgettable experience.

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