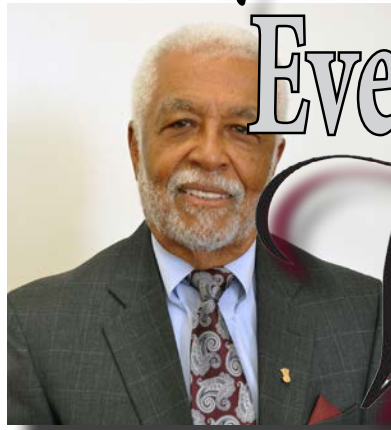


# Valley Remembers Wiley J. Henderson - p. 2

# FREE

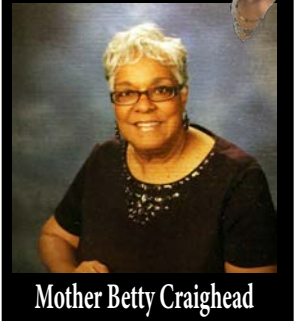
## Events to Open 2023, p. 4

Friday  
December 30, 2022  
Vol. 9, No. 17  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



# The Valley Weekly

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



Mother Betty Craighead

*"But I've been there and done that. I'm not trying to prove anything to anybody."* - Abbey Lincoln

## Rep. Hall to Head NBCSL

During the 46th Annual Legislative Conference of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) held in Las Vegas, Nevada, Alabama State Representative Laura Hall (District 19) was recognized as President-elect for the influential policy making organization. Rep. Hall's term as President will begin January 1, 2023.

"As I prepare to take the helm as President of NBCSL, I will continue to advance this organization forward, making sure we remain focused on the communities

we represent," said newly elected NBCSL President Rep. Hall, "ensuring our voices as Black state legislators are heard and we are indeed the 'Voices for the States.'"

Alabama House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels (District 53) was also recognized during the annual awards ceremony as a Regional Legislator of the Year.

Under her leadership, Hall plans to continue work on protecting voter rights, women's rights, and



increasing the engagement of NBCSL members and corporate partners.



## RJF Gives Holiday Cheer to Beacon Church

The Rosetta James Foundation recently presented ample toys and gifts to Beacon Hill Worship Center of Madison, Ala. The Church is led by Superin-

tendent Anthony and First Lady Sa'Brina Wheeler. Both are graduates of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium. The Beacon Center "edu-

cates, empowers to live, encourage, and equip to share the abundant life promised by Jesus Christ. Visit [www.beaconhillwc.com](http://www.beaconhillwc.com).

## HU Addresses Christmas Eve Blackouts

Huntsville's Christmas holiday started with an unwelcome event. Around 5 a.m. on Christmas Eve morning, Huntsville Utilities began rolling blackouts across its service area. This was triggered by the Tennessee Valley Authority calling on all its 153 power companies across the seven-state region to reduce load on the electric

grid.

If rolling blackouts were the solution, what was the problem? Officially, we'll have to wait for the findings of after-action reviews and investigations; however, it looks like the extreme cold created record-high demand on the electric grid, and there was not enough power available to meet that need.

TVA and Huntsville Utilities called for voluntary reductions the day before and shut down all the large industries to free up resources. Still, it was not enough, and mandatory reductions across the region were instituted when the problem became acute early Saturday morning.

The power business is See **BLACKOUTS**, Page 8

## NOBLE Gala Set

The Alabama Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) will hold its 4th Annual Scholarship Gala Saturday, January 14, at the Westin Hotel, 6800 Governors Drive West, at 6 p.m.

NOBLE's Black Tie Event & Silent Auction is a signature event to raise money for scholarships and community events. The national organization has 60 chapters and over 4,000 members worldwide.

NOBLE is also considered "the conscience of law enforcement."

For additional information, contact CPT Jeff Rice of the Huntsville Police Department, at [jeff.rice@huntsvilleal.gov](mailto:jeff.rice@huntsvilleal.gov).

# Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



# Valley Remembers Long-time AAMU Educator, Mentor

The Tennessee Valley community is mourning the recent death of a retired Alabama A&M University educator and mentor.

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 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

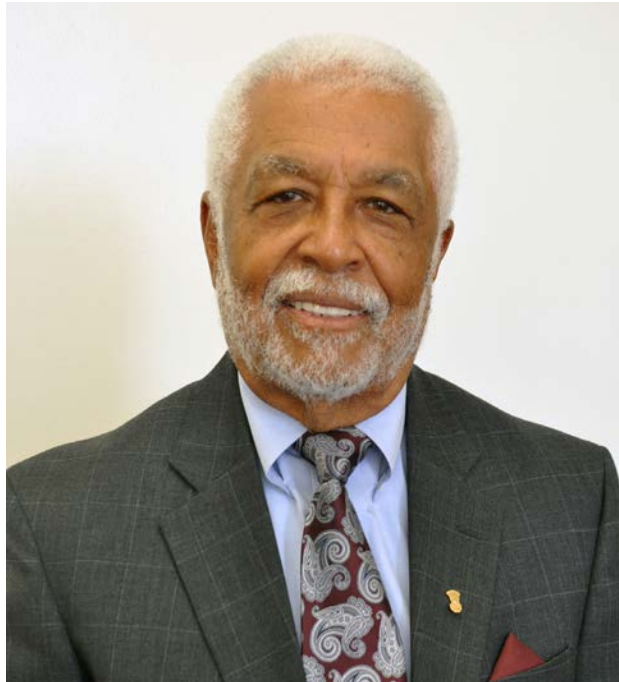
Students. He participated in the Congregational Care and Keenage Ministries.

Over the years, Henderson skillfully used his fraternal affiliations as an avenue for community outreach. Mr. Henderson was a life-member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, having been initiated through the Delta Gamma Chapter at Alabama A&M University in 1954. Since joining the ranks of the oldest inter-collegiate fraternity for African-American men, Henderson was an active member of the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter in Huntsville. 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.

Henderson 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. Annually, he participates in fundraisers for the American Heart Association, Muscular Dystrophy and the March of Dimes.

For his ongoing volunteerism extending beyond his 70th birthday, Henderson was inducted into the Rosetta James Foundation at its annual "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration in 2012.

As a retiree of the Alabama Higher Education System, Henderson continued to give full-time service to Alabama A&M University. His love and dedication for his students was exemplified in the many long hours he gave by always arriving on the job early and leaving late. Over the years his students nominated him for Who's Who Among American Teachers



four times. He also received recognition as Professor of the Month and Teacher of the Year from the Student Gov-

ernment Association.

During three decades of tenure at Alabama A&M University, Henderson made

substantial financial contributions to the university through payroll deductions and other venues. He gave leadership for the class of 1956 campaign to raise \$50,000 for the university. His fellow classmates presented him the Class Achievement Award at his 50th class reunion.

Moreover, Henderson's gardening skills gave him the unique opportunity to share an abundance of fresh vegetables with friends, co-workers and needy families. The benefactors often requested and enjoyed his "green tomatoes." Others appreciated his fresh cucumbers, squash and peppers.

Finally, Henderson often described himself as "a servant to all mankind," and his actions fulfilled this declaration.

- Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

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## The Valley Weekly

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Half Page	Horizontal 5x10 inches	\$400
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Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$200
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$100
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$50
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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN



### THE REAL CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:11 says: “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

You know, there are so many stories about Christmas. There is “The Christmas Story” that talks about Ebenezer Scrooge.

There is the “Grinch Who Stole Christmas.” Then, there is “Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer,” just to name a few.

Now all of these are wonderful Christmas stories, but there is only one “real” Christmas Story and that is the story of

the birth of Jesus. Because when it comes to Christmas, it’s either real, or it’s just entertainment.

Now, when we look at the gospel of Luke, he depicts what that first Christmas was really like. No lighted Christmas trees, no “fan-fare”, just a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, because there was no room left for Him in the inn.

Just think how profound that was, because when He came to this world, we didn’t have any room for Him, and yet He said, in my father’s house there are many rooms (John 14:2).

You see, this is not a

“rags to riches” story. This is a riches to rags story, where God comes down from heaven and makes himself small, like a baby, to be the savior of the whole world. This was the only way to redeem fallen man, to be born of the virgin Mary and conceived by the Holy Spirit which was an incorruptible seed and not of human descent.

What a perfect story for all of us to share from generation to generation. Jesus became Emmanuel, which



means ‘God with us!’

You see, the bottom line is this is that there are many stories about Christmas, but the only one that is the real deal is the one that tells the story of Jesus as the savior of the whole world ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, “A Champion Game Plan For Life,” available at amazon.com.

# Holiday Trash and Tree Recycling January 7

**Wait!**

You don’t have to trash that live Christmas tree after the holidays. Operation Christmas Cleanup will recycle your “undressed” tree along with plain cardboard boxes, batteries and old electronics at no cost to you.

This limited recycling collection event will take place Saturday, January 7, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at two locations: John Hunt Park,

2315 Airport Road, Huntsville, Ala., and Madison City Schools Stadium, 211 Celtic Drive, Madison, Ala.

Here’s what you can drop off:

- Live Christmas trees
- Flattened and broken-down cardboard boxes
- Batteries
- Electronics

To recycle a live Christmas tree, participants must

remove all lights and ornaments.

**NO** artificial trees, wrapping paper and packaging materials, such as Styrofoam and plastic can be accepted.

Operation Christmas Cleanup is sponsored by the City of Huntsville’s Green Team, City of Madison, Madison County, Solid Waste Disposal Authority and its curbside recycling program, and Re-

cycling Alliance of North Alabama (RANA).


In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled on Saturday, January 14.

For more information about Huntsville-area recycling efforts, go to recycling-alliance.com or visit the City’s Green Team.

- [Huntsvilleal.gov](http://Huntsvilleal.gov)

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

## VALLEY DEATHS



### NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

*Funeral service for MRS. CHARLES-ETTA BRAKE SMITH (b. 1946) will be Friday, December 30, at 11 a.m. at Blue Spring Road Church of Christ with Pastor Floyd Rogers officiating.*

*Funeral service for MR. RANDY DARNELL MALONE (b. 1956) will be Thursday, December 29, at 12 p.m. at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis, officiating.*

*Funeral service for MR. LEONARD B. PARKS (b. 1961) was held Wednesday, December 28, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.*

### ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

*Funeral service for MRS. MADGIE MARIE MATKINS (b. 1943) will be 12 p.m., Thursday, December 29, at the Morris Chapel Primitive Baptist Church (2135 Winchester Rd. NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Derrick Langford officiating.*

*Funeral service for ELDER GERALDINE BOOKER HEREFORD (b. 1927) will be 12 p.m., Thursday, December 29, at the Eagles’ Nest Cathedral International (6831 Hollow Road, NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Bishop Daniel J. Richardson officiating.*

*Funeral service for PROFESSOR WILEY JOSEPH HENDERSON, JR., (b. 1934) was held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, December 28, at the First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.*

*Funeral service for MS. PAULETTE SHETTLEWOOD (b. 1984) was held Tuesday, December 27, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Alexander Lampkin officiating.*

*Funeral service for MRS. SHELVE JEAN LANIER MILLER (b. 1943) was held Tuesday, December 27, at the Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Belafonte Ave NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Edward Anderson officiating.*

### SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

*Funeral service for MR. JORDAN MYLES (b. 2009) was held Sunday, December 18, at Serenity Funeral Home, 2505 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.*



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**Thru January 2023**

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

9 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

NYE Live! New Year's Eve Huntsville!  
PBR Lockhart Huntsville  
455 The Bridge Street Ste. 120  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9 p.m.

**Thru January 2**

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

**Thru January 29**

Winter Park  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala.  
TheOrionHuntsville.com

**December 31**

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

**January 13-15**

Comedian Kevin Fredericks (aka KevOnStage)  
Stand Up Live Huntsville  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(6:30 p.m.-1/15)  
7 p.m.

**January 20**

"Clue: On Stage"  
Playhouse  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

The Grand Finale  
The Foundation Coffee House  
4701 Meridian Street Suite K  
Huntsville, Ala.

**January 21**

"Nature Needs Our Help"  
Nature Academy  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 830-4447  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Encore Concert: Kristoffer LeShaun Live  
The Electric Bell Stovehouse  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

**February 7**

"Garden Planning"  
Nature Academy  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 830-4447  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**February 10-18**

"Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind"  
Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7-8:30 p.m.

**March 25**

Huntsville Havoc  
"Military Night"  
Von Braun Center  
7 p.m.

## PowerShot

"True peace is to come to a deeper understanding of who YOU really are: this goes beneath the layers that were imposed on you long before you knew who you were."

J. T. Moore



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**DECEMBER 30 - TIGER WOODS** - Eldrick Tont "Tiger" Woods is an American professional golfer who is among the most successful golfers of all time, and one of the most popular athletes of the 21st century. He has been one of the highest-paid athletes in the world for several years. Woods is generally considered one of the greatest golfers of all time.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



*"It is dangerous to be right in matters on which the established authorities are wrong."*

- Voltaire

# STOP Doing That and Pay Attention!

Discipline and Focus have been drilled in us ever since we were little kids. From parents to teachers, they knew it took self discipline, or instructed discipline and focus, to accomplish tasks and goals. The classroom would get riled up and the teacher would say, “Everyone quiet down and pay attention!”

We would be doing something we had no business doing and a parent would say, “Stop doing that and pay attention!” Why do you think the concept of stopping and paying attention doesn’t apply now? If it’s the recipe that works, no need to change it, right?

Following rules of driving, speed limits and signs, and keeping your eyes on the road, takes discipline and focus. When operating in that realm, we are able to go places as safely as possible.

The point is. This has always been the ticket (no pun intended) to moving ahead.



DLC Accepting Applications for 15th Cohort [tnvalleydlc.com/applications](http://tnvalleydlc.com/applications)



It takes the discipline to stick to the task, follow the rules, not deviate from the plan, and be silent about your dreams, and focus!

Focusing allows you to think clearly, be less stressed, achieve goals by not making excuses and procrastinating, and be in control of a situation.

So, let’s stop falling back into bad habits that we know hinder us from progressing. Get up and MOVE, put that junk food down, stop telling every-

body what your plans or ideas are.

Focus, intentionally stay on course, get rest, stop trying to do so many things at once! Take a walk so you can be alone and access your brainpower and think!!!!

We have things to do! We have a purpose. Pray and get the plan, and let’s follow it! The world needs you. You need you!!

God loves you, and so do I! He has given you a gift, open it!

**2 Timothy 1:7**  
7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

**Romans 12:2**  
2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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A New Generation Of Service



## Re-branding Deion “Coach Prime” Sanders: Traitor, Trailblazer - or, what?

*“Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities.” -Matthew 25:23*

Previously, I branded Deion Sanders as “HBCU human capital reinvestment”, <https://bit.ly/3xVwdP0> the “Apostle Paul of HBCU Sports”, <https://bit.ly/3GbooKw> and “Name-/Game-Changer” <https://bit.ly/3HPKFyF>.

But since he’s left HBCU Jackson State University (JSU) to coach the University of Colorado football, is he now a traitor, trailblazer - or, what?

- Sanders is:
- Neither a traitor from his transparency to “60 Minutes”, <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/deion-sanders-jackson-state-university-hbcu-60-minutes-video-2022-10-16/>;
  - Nor a trailblazer - not the first HBCU head coach to coach at a Power 5 school.

Instead, let’s call him “The OG HBCU Coach-sultant.” “OG,” or “original gangster,” is a highly-respected originator; in just three years, this NFL Hall of Famer brought greater recognition, media visibility, and corporations to JSU and its Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Coach-sultants are persons who both coach and consult clients, and Sanders performed those two roles well, too. For example:

Coach Prime elevated JSU players to their desired levels of excellence. Their Prime record included a first-ever undefeated regular season in 2022, and 2021 and 2022 SWAC championships. Bravo, coach.

As coach-sultant, his role was even greater than simply that of a coach.

Clients hire consultants to cast visions of brighter futures, score quick early victories for them, and bring them new resources. But most importantly, consultants know when to exit and leave clients better off with a blueprint for the future.

Coach-sultant Prime came to JSU and SWAC in 2020 and attracted such corporate sponsors as Aflac, American Airlines, Pepsi, Procter & Gamble, Under Armour, and Walmart.

As of April 2021, Reflecting on the Deion Sanders Era at Jackson State - Boardroom reported that Sanders generated \$185 million in advertising value and exposure.

Coach Prime was faithful and fruitful in his JSU tasks; now he’s elevating to larger responsibilities at a losing Colorado football program, just like the above Matthew text. You and I can do that, too.

Follow Sanders’ talk-and-walk blueprint; for instance, we need to use our talents and resources not only for football clashes but also for physics classrooms!

Let’s create some more role models like Coach Prime.  
Tim Allston  
Certified Life Coach & Amazon Best Selling Author-Publisher  
Leading from the Middle



# Black History Month Theme Focuses on “Black Resistance”

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) lists “Black Resistance” as the 2023 theme for Black History Month. Over the years, the themes reflect changes in how people of African descent in the United States have viewed themselves, the influence of social movements on racial ideologies, and the aspirations of the black community.

African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms, and police killings since our arrival upon these shores. These efforts have been to advocate for a dignified self-determined life in a just democratic society in the United States and beyond the United States political jurisdiction. The 1950s and 1970s in the United States was defined by actions such as sit-ins, boycotts, walk outs, strikes by Black people and white allies in the fight for justice against discrimination in all sectors of society from employment to education to housing. Black people have had to consistently push the United States to live up to its ideals of freedom, liberty, and justice for all. Systematic oppression has sought to negate much of the dreams of our griots, like Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston, and our freedom fighters, like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Septima Clark, and Fannie Lou Hamer fought to realize. Black people have sought ways to nurture and protect Black

lives, and for autonomy of their physical and intellectual bodies through armed resistance, voluntary emigration, nonviolence, education, literature, sports, media, and legislation/politics. Black led institutions and affiliations have lobbied, litigated, legislated, protested, and achieved success.

In an effort to live, and maintain and protect economic success Black people have organized/planned violent insurrections against those who enslaved them, such as in Haiti, and armed themselves against murderous white mobs as seen in Memphis, TN (1892), Rosewood, FL (1923), and New Orleans, LA (1900). Additionally, some Black people thought that the best way to resist was to self-liberate as seen by the actions those who left the plantation system, of Henry Adams and Benjamin “Pap” Singleton, when they led a mass exodus westward in 1879 and Bishop Henry McNeal Turner of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, who organized emigration to Liberia.

Black faith institutions were spaces where Black communities met to organize resistance efforts, inspired folk to participate in the movements, and offered sanctuary during times of crisis. To promote awareness of the myriad of issues and activities media outlets were developed including radio shows, podcasts, newspapers (i.e. Chicago Defender, Chicago Bee, the Afro, The

California Eagle, Omaha Star, the Crisis, etc.). Ida B. Wells used publications



to contest the scourge of lynching. These outlets were pivotal in sharing the successes and challenges of resistance movements.

Cultural centers such as libraries including George Cleveland Hall Library (Chicago, IL), Dart Hall (Charleston, SC) and social, literary, and cultural clubs, such as Jack and Jill, Phillis Wheatley Literary Societies, fraternal and sororal orders, associations (i.e. Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, National Association of Colored Women, etc.) worked to support the intellectual development of communities to collect and preserve Black stories, sponsor Black history and literature events, and were active in the quest for civil, social, and human rights.

Black medical professionals worked with others to establish nursing schools, hospitals, and clinics in order to provide spaces for Black people to get quality health care, which they often did (and do not) receive at main-

stream medical institutions. For economic and financial independence businesses, such as Binga Bank, Johnson Publishing Company, Parker House Sausage Company, Soft and Sheen, etc., were developed to keep funds within the community. In order to resist inequality and to advocate for themselves Black men and women formed labor unions based on trades and occupations, some examples, include the Colored National Labor Union, Colored Musicians Club, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and Negro American Labor Council ...

As societal and political forces escalate to limit access to and exercise of

the ballot, eliminate the teaching of Black history, and work to push us back into the 1890s, we can only rely on our capacity to resist. The enactment of HR 40, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, the Breathe Act, and the closure of the racial wealth gap is not the end. They too will require us to mobilize our resources, human and material, and fight for “freedom, justice, and equality”; “self-determination”, and/or “social transformation.”

This is a call to everyone, inside and outside the academy, to study the history of Black Americans’ responses to establish safe spaces, where Black life can be sustained, fortified, and respected.

- asalh.org

## 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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November-March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm





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

## Mother Betty Craighead

Mother Betty Joyce Ford Craighead is a native Huntsvillian who is the first of four children born to the late Walter and Lucy Steele Ford. She attended Winston Street Elementary School, Councill High School and Alabama A&M University. She married Willie Mack Craighead, her high school sweetheart, and they are the parents of Karen Craighead McGlathery and Roderick T. Craighead; two grandsons, and three great-granddaughters.

She joined Huntsville Hospital as a unit secretary in the Pediatrics, Medical/Surgical Unit, and Labor & Delivery in 1965. Exposed to every facet of medicine, she gained a great love for and knowledge of the medical profession. However, the Labor & Delivery area was truly her passion, recording and witnessing the births of many babies in Huntsville.

In 1970, Medical Center Hospital was opened by a group of doctors and Mrs. Craighead was hired, taking her to another level in the medical field. Medical Center was later purchased by Humana Hospital but kept her in the same position as operating room sec-

retary. She was promoted to customer service representative and then to customer service supervisor, retiring from Humana in 1996.

A faithful member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for over 45 years, she has served in positions ranging from the Stitching and Quilting Ministry to Superintendent of the Sunday School. In 2012, she was asked to do a commercial for First Community Health Plan due in part to her work in health insurance and her affiliation with the Stitching and Quilting Ministry. She is indeed a dedicated leader who loves people.

Among her many community service projects are her service as director of Rural Senior Services (Union Chapel Center); advisor, Alabama Cooperative Extension System-Alabama A&M University Successful Aging Initiative,



14 years; representative, Alabama Alzheimer's Campaign, 2010; St. Jude Children Research (Campaign for a Cure); and others.

Mrs. Craighead enjoys sewing and creative arts. She has traveled throughout the United States and several foreign countries, including Israel, Bahamas; Cozemul, Mexico; Ontario, Canada; Tanzania; and Nairobi, Kenya, where she was adopted by the Kuria tribe and given the tribal name of "Robi." She has been abundantly blessed by God.

"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).



## This Sunday's Lesson



Sunday, January 1, 2023

The Holy Name of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ

(Track 2, Year A)

Numbers 6:22-27

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:15-21

Psalms 8

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BLACKOUTS, Continued from Page 1

# Huntsville Utilities: Rolling Blackouts Explained

getting more complicated. You have likely heard about problems in California, Texas, and other areas, but now these complications are impacting lives in the Tennessee Valley.

Electricity is challenging because it is difficult to store in large quantities, meaning power must be generated at power plants in the exact quantities needed by customers as it is being used.

That balance can be difficult to maintain when customer demand rises or falls sharply. In the past, this was not something we worried much about because there was generally plenty of electricity to go around. However, changes in environmental and



Image by Jeriko Mitty from Pixabay

financial circumstances have tightened generation supplies across the electric industry.

Sweeping industry changes and regional power grids are one thing, but what about the local response by Huntsville Utilities? Well, it is under contract to purchase all its

power from TVA.

While HU is working on expanding its solar offerings, solar power won't help on a cold and dark winter morning. HU reduced load, as required, but did so by rotating shutdowns, or "rolling blackouts", across the service area. Circuits serving

hospitals and other critical infrastructure were left out of the rotation, but all other circuits were subject to the rolling blackouts.

Restrictions lasted for five and a half hours. During that time, requirements shifted, so some areas lost power for 15 minutes and others for 30 minutes. Also, some were hit more than once, but none were shut down more than twice.

Additionally, equipment problems or other complications kept the power off in some areas after the mandatory rolling blackouts stopped, and to make matters worse, Huntsville Utilities' phone lines failed during much of the event. Technicians resolved the

problem, but until the phones were back in service, it was almost impossible for customers to let HU know their electricity was still out.

Many lessons will be learned from this first-of-its-kind event in the Tennessee Valley. I believe it will lead to changes, though it's hard to predict the ramifications today.

We are fortunate to live in a place where such problems are rare, and improvements are possible.

- Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.  
Member  
Huntsville Utilities  
Gas & Waterworks Board

## IMS to Host Reception for Officers

The Interfaith Mission Service will hold a special reception on Thursday, December 29, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the United Way Building Board Room - First Floor.

The reception will honor outgoing officers Polly Blalock, Barry Meyer and Doug Seay, while also introducing new officers Judith Gregory and Sheila Woodard.

To contact IMS, email [ims@knology.net](mailto:ims@knology.net). The mailing address is 701 Andrew Jackson Way NE, Huntsville, AL 35801. IMS is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

Patricia Smith serves as chairperson.

## MORTGAGE

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