

# Preparing for the Valley's Most Unforeseen, p. 8

## Rosetta James Foundation's 2020 Honorees, p. 3

Friday  
**January 17, 2020**  
 Vol. 6, No. 19  
 ValleyWeeklyllc.com

## Fighting Diabetes, p. 4

*"In the future, as in the present, as in the past, black people will build many new worlds. This is true. I will make it so. And you will help me." - N.K. Jemisin*



## Malcolm X's Daughter Addresses A&M MLK Day

Author, activist and community organizer Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of slain civil rights activist Malcolm X, is scheduled to address the Martin Luther King Day Celebration at Alabama A&M University Thursday, January 16, at 12:30 p.m. at the Ernest L. Knight Center.

Shabazz's presentation is part of AAMU's Beyond Normal Lecture Series. The public is invited.



## Former SNCC Officer to Speak at UAH

The public is invited to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Program at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) on Thursday, January 16, at 3 p.m. Student Services Building, Room 112. RSVP required.

In celebration of King's legacy, UAH will welcome special guest Bob Zellner. The son and grandson of Ku Klux Klan members, Zellner risked his life – and nearly lost it – many times in the fight to achieve The Second Emancipation.

As an organizer of The Freedom Rides of 1961 and the first white southerner to serve as field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, he worked alongside Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lewis, Rosa Parks and many other civil rights leaders. Famous for battles with the KKK, segregationist lynch mobs, and violent police, he is now the individual that a new generation turns to with questions on the racial, historical and cultural assumptions on which they

were raised, as they ask themselves, "What is my place in this struggle?" Zellner captivates audiences with the untold stories of the Civil Rights Movement and his dedication to fighting for the rights of others.

Drawing on decades of experience guiding the movement and his ongoing active role, he presents a modern-day message for combating deep-seated racism, discrimination and prejudice and sparking widespread social change.

For more info, call



Karessa Acosta Lee at (256) 824-6822 or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-commemoration-program-tickets-85892267083>

## Deltas Hold Successful MEALS Fundraiser



The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. recently joined Toni Terrell of 94.1 FM in a live radio broadcast supporting the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Citizen Center, 2200 Drake Avenue in Huntsville, Ala.

To strengthen efforts to eliminate food insecurities, the chapter's President Ovetta Hobson and the event's coordinators (Rosa Kilpatrick, Remika Garrett and Alicia Nunez) challenged all Greek letter organizations, clubs,

churches, and community affiliates during the broadcast to help exceed the goal to raise \$9,000.

The money collected will be donated to Meals on Wheels to ensure that the seniors who depend on the program will have festive and nutritious meals this holiday season.

Because of the tenacious efforts put forth throughout the campaign and rally, the chapter exceeded its goal of over \$9,000 which will feed more than 1,200 meals for the Huntsville/Madison County senior

citizens this year!

The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., chartered in 1954 has a rich legacy of providing service throughout all of Madison County.

The chapter strives to provide quality programs to educate area youth, steer economic development within the community and be at the forefront of social action. Ovetta Hobson currently serves as President. Visit <http://www.dsthuntsville.org>.

## The Valley Weekly

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## The Valley Weekly

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## OPINION: Your Neighbor

by Devyn Keith

Huntsville, "the closest city to space". There's no place like it in the South—even the nation! Through hard work, this community has created unique opportunities for its residents while simultaneously confronting immense challenges. Nevertheless, I believe we are poised to become a model city in many respects, the greatest city just this side of heaven, if I may.

To do this, I believe we must yet again break from the national trend. Huntsvillians need to remember who we are to each other. No matter where you have moved here from, no matter what your party affiliation is, religious background, skin color, your zip code, or if you wear Maroon (Go, Bulldogs!) Crimson (Roll-Tide!) or that dark tangerine color—we are all neighbors.

I have learned so much during my three years as the District 1 City Council Representative.

I've learned from my incredible colleagues on the council, from Mayor Battle, administration and the extraordinary employees of the city who keep us humming.

But most of all, I've truly learned from my neighbors.

I think of my neighbors in Terry Heights, Meadow Hills and Glen Park, home to some of the hardest working peo-

ple in our city. No big name developers, NASA engineers or DOD contractors but true Huntvillians nonetheless.

Some who pay their mortgage, daycare, insurance, car note and to go order from G's Country Kitchen as custodians who make sure every cubicle and office is spotless from Research Park to Redstone Arsenal. Many of whom, feel left out of the progress that Huntsville is experiencing. Without a doubt, their viewpoints have always been valuable, but by choosing to live within "forgotten communities," it has illuminated to me just how much they need a *Neighbor* to fight for their quality of life perspectives. Projects like Council High Park, Johnson Legacy Development and the Sonya Drive - Neighborhood Resource Center were birthed from conversations with my neighbors in these communities. Neighborhood perspectives should guide *Political Priorities*.

I'm reminded of my friend, Mr. Shaw. He is a war veteran, 40 years my senior, and our political views don't

align nationally but overlap exponentially when we begin to talk about balancing the city's budget, road paving, safe streets, support for our first responders, strong schools, downtown growth and of course, great food in the city. We have listened to each other over the years, and his influence continues to be impactful on my views of local policy. We've found that our primary civic concerns actually aren't federal; but rather local. He's the Neighbor I didn't know I needed until I had him.

Then there are people

like Phong. Phong is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Vietnam, brought to our area by our emerging tech sector. Before 2016, he felt no desire to vote in political elections, believing his vote had no impact. The first election he ever voted in was our Huntsville municipal elections of August 2016. Motivated by the appeal of a growing city, a city that supported a local music, food, arts, inclusion and culture.

As Huntsville City Council President, I often reflect on what it means to effectively help lead our city while representing the interests of my District.

My philosophy can be concluded into one saying: what's good for District 1 is good for the city, and what's good for the city is what's

good for District 1. We are all Neighbors. No neighbor or neighborhood should be seen as superior or inferior to another.

In the Gospel of Luke, you will find "love our neighbors as we love ourselves." That moral standard is written with action in mind. We will inevitably fall short at times, but I believe this city should strive to create a community that can suspend our partisan interests, to breakaway from the current national climate and again be an example to this nation— even to this world. As we enter into a new year, hoping to hold true to our New Year's resolutions, let's renew our focus on what's most important—let's strive together to be caring Neighbors.



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## 100 BMOA-Huntsville Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The 100 Black Men Greater Huntsville Chapter recently celebrated 20 years of dedicated service to the communities of North Alabama. The chapter founders (Dr. Prince Preyer, Jr., and Earnest Starks), President Curtis Ellington and general body thank all sponsors,

partners, volunteers and the public for in kind contributions and consistent support. Pictured (clockwise) are past presidents John Stallworth, Eddie Williams, Sam King, James Matthewson, Curtis Ellington, Earnest Starks and Dr. Taylor Byrd.



**Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly**

- AAMU Office of Public Relations
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- Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law
- Betty Mae's Restaurant
- Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center
- Brian Fork CP Church
- Bryant Bank - Church Street
- Chester's Barber Shop
- Depot Professional Building
- Dollar General Market (Blue Spring Rd.)
- Dunkin Donuts
- Eagles' Nest Ministries
- Fellowship Presbyterian Church
- First Missionary Baptist Church
- Health Unlimited
- House of Hope and Restoration
- Huntsville Bible College
- James Smith AllState Agency
- Kroger's - Oakwood Avenue
- Lakeside United Methodist Church
- Lucky's Supermarket
- Marshall England - State Farm Agent
- Martinson & Beason, PC
- Nature's Apothecary - Health Food
- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home
- Oakwood University Post Office
- Regency Retirement Village
- Rocket City Barber Shop
- Sam and Greg's Pizza
- Sav-A-Lot
- Sneed's Cleaners
- The Fellowship of Faith Church
- Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
- Woody Anderson Ford

## Rosetta James Foundation Announces Slate of 2020 Honorees

The esteemed Rosetta James Foundation will recognize one of its largest pools of honorees Saturday, March 14, at The Jackson Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Fourteen men and women who have blazed many unique trails throughout their professional careers and spans of volunteerism will be honored during the 14th Annual Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration at noon at 6001 Moquin Drive NW in Cummings Research Park.

Named in honor of the late local, long-time activist, volunteer and civil rights advocate, the Rosetta James Foundation recognizes age 70+ individuals who have given consistently, unselfishly and untiringly of themselves in service.

Comprising the 2020 list of Elders are (alphabetically): **Mother Edna E. Davis Brown**, nurse and homemaker; **Mrs. Maureen Davis Cathey**,

retired administrative staffer; **Mrs. Ida Crawford**, retired librarian; **Mrs. Gloria Dawson**, retired educator; **Mrs. Ruby Dickson**, author/poet; **Mrs. Bettye Dixie**, former counselor; **Mrs. Ruby Ford**, accountant; **Mrs. Sarah Drake**, retired educator; **Parker Griffith**, M.D., local physician and former U.S. representative; **Mrs. Bhavani Kakani**, founder/president, AshaKiran; **Mr. Richard Knight**, veterans advocate; **Dr. Prince Preyer**, educator and former commissioner; **Dr. Horace Rice**, arbitrator, tennis enthusiast and retired business professor; and **Mr. LaVern Spearman**, Urban Emphasis Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The Foundation will award scholarships to local current and prospective students of colleges and universities, primarily in the Tennessee Valley. Tickets are on sale for \$50. For additional information, contact (256) 536-9717.

## Union Chapel Will Host Annual College Fair

Looking for some face-to-face interaction on your favorite HBCU? Go no further than the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Fair.

The event will be held Saturday, February 15, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 315 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala., from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Tuskegee? A&M? State? Oakwood? Drake? See them all!

For additional information, call Phyllene Washington at (256) 603-2775.

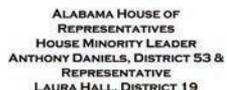
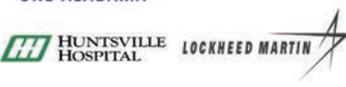
*"Some people are your relatives but others are your ancestors, and you choose the ones you want to have as ancestors. You create yourself out of those values."*

**- Ralph Ellison**

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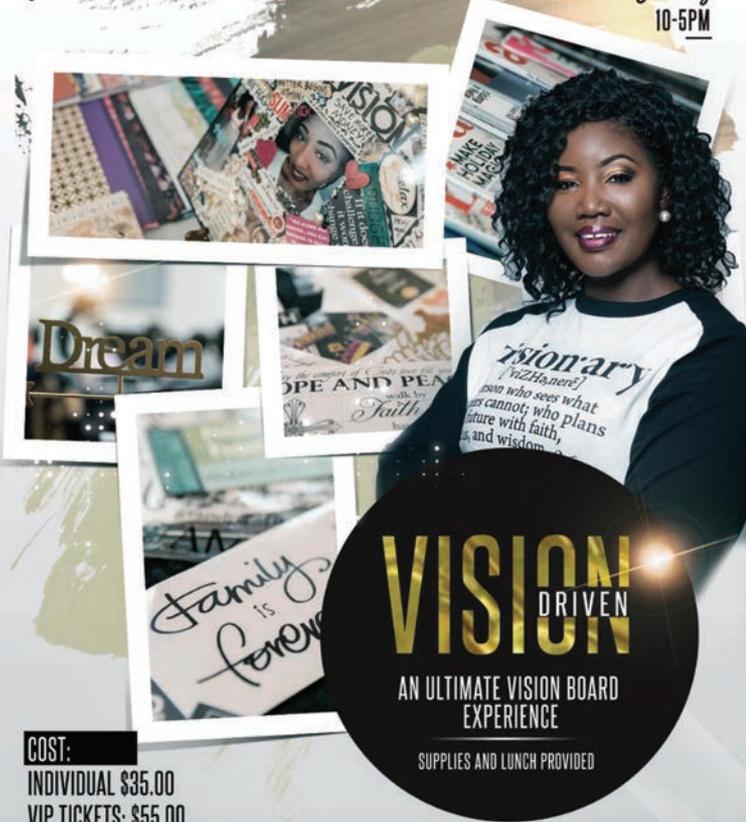
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## Perspectives on EGO-holism

by tim allston

### "... with a little help from my friends": Fighting Diabetes (Part 2 of 2)

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety" - Proverbs 11:14, NKJV.



Last week's column, "My Ego-holism's New Roommate: Diabetes," paired my new-found disease with my ongoing recovering from ego-holism.

A life-threatening illness, diabetes affects one out of every 10 Americans, one of seven Alabamians, and one of every four persons over 65 years old. Could you be one?

Here's my first "Diabetes 101" lesson, in hopes that you too can benefit: "Counselors," both professional and non-professional, are closer than you think!

#### Starting with "Dr. J"

A longtime friend Julian sobered me, counseling, "Be compliant with what your health professionals tell you. You and I have two good Chicago friends - one who died last year, and the other who last month became an amputee - due to non-compliance with their diabetes instructors." **Wow!** Those two victims were my former Chicago church basketball teammates.

I recalled then the widow of a childhood friend, a 2007 diabetes fatality, revealing, "he ate and drank whatever and whenever he wanted".

Scheduling counseling appointments with local healthcare professionals was next for me.

#### Eating to Live, or Living to Eat?

After assessing my routine breakfast of oatmeal (or raisin bran cereal) topped with raisins and cranberries (dried), blueberries and bananas, Crestwood's Diabetes Educator Mrs. Cynthia Roberts quipped, "So, you like oatmeal with your fruit!," then she advised, "You're eating the right foods, . . . just too many of them at one time!" Roberts then instructed me on "portions control." Finally, she waived off monitoring my blood glucose levels - "too soon for that".

Conversely, medical herbalist/naturopath Curtis Eakins advised: "Too much emphasis is placed on counting carbs; focus instead on the Big Four:

1. Diet - ". . . yes as Crestwood said, starting reading those food nutrition labels", AND CLOSE THE KITCHEN BY 6 PM!
2. Exercise - while watching your nightly news shows
3. Sleep - strive for seven to hours nightly, and
4. Stress - "will counter-attack those other three, . . .

"... And yes, tim, start those daily 'finger-pricks' to monitor your glucose levels - otherwise, how else will you know?"

My "multitude of counselors" was a great help for me. Please join them.

Q: What's your counsel for this rookie diabetic? Reach me at tim@GetEgoHelpNow.org.

## Rosetta James Foundation Scholarships Open

The Rosetta James Foundation (RJF) is accepting applications for its annual scholarship award program until Friday, February 21. Awards will be presented at the "Honoring Our Elders" event at 12 noon on Saturday, March 14, at The Jackson Center, 6001 Moquin Drive, in Cummings Research Park.

The scholarships are awarded to deserving students who are committed to community volunteerism as part of their college experience. Scholarships are not awarded to graduate students.

E-mail: [info@rosettajamesfoundation.org](mailto:info@rosettajamesfoundation.org); or

Mail by Friday, February 21, to: Gary T. Whitley, Jr., Rosetta James Foundation Scholarship Chair, P.O. Box 17452, Huntsville, AL 35810.

For additional information and a detailed list of criteria, visit [rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://rosettajamesfoundation.org).

#### RJF Endowed Scholarships:

**Dr. Charles E. Cannon Scholarship** (Alabama A&M University);  
**Mr. & Mrs. Jerry (Butch) Damson Scholarship** Fund;  
**McKinley James Scholarship** (J.F. Drake State Community and Technical

College);  
**Rosetta James Scholarship** for Alabama A&M University;  
**Dr. Harriett Littlepage Scholarship** Fund for Alabama A&M University;  
**Vanessa Williams McCarthy "Yes I Can" Memorial Scholarship** for Alabama A&M University;  
**Marco McMillian Memorial Scholarship**; **The Pugh-Slater Scholarship Fund** (J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College);  
**Kenneth Ellington Smoot, Sr. Memorial Scholarship** (J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College).

Alabama A&M University  
**BULLDOG BASKETBALL Home Games**

**January 18**  
Alabama State University  
Bill Harris Arena - B'ham)

**February 1**  
Texas Southern University  
T.M. Elmore Building

**February 3**  
Prairie View A&M University  
T.M. Elmore Building

**February 22**  
Alcorn State University  
T.M. Elmore Building

**February 24**  
Southern University  
T.M. Elmore Building

**March 5**  
Grambling State University  
T.M. Elmore Building

**March 7**  
Jackson State University  
(Senior Day)  
T.M. Elmore Building

#### NAAACC Meetings

**The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon. The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.**

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# The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

## January 15

The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Emancipation Proclamation Celebration  
*Guest Messenger:* Rev. Dr. Traci deVon Blackmon  
Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church  
2115 Winchester Road NE  
Huntsville, Ala., 7 p.m.

## January 18

Martin Luther King Unity Parade  
Sponsored by Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity  
Downtown Huntsville

## January 19-March 22

"Harlem, Hollywood, Broadway: African American Legends" Photographed by Jack Mitchell  
Chan Gallery - Huntsville

Museum of Art

Lecture and Preview Party (Jan. 17) - Featuring Alabama A&M University Jazz Ensemble (\$25/\$50)

## January 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast  
Sponsored by Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.  
Von Braun Center North Hall

## January 27

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UAH (A Learning Community Designed for Adults 50+) Daytime and Evening Courses Begin for Winter Term  
For additional information, contact Osher.uah.edu/

Catalog or (256) 824-6183

## February 2019

Black History Month  
2020 Theme: "African Americans and the Vote"

## March 11

Jill Scott in Concert  
Von Braun Center Concert Hall

## March 14

Rosetta James Foundation Honoring Our Elders Celebration  
The Jackson Center - 12  
Noon-\$50- (256) 536-9717

## March 27

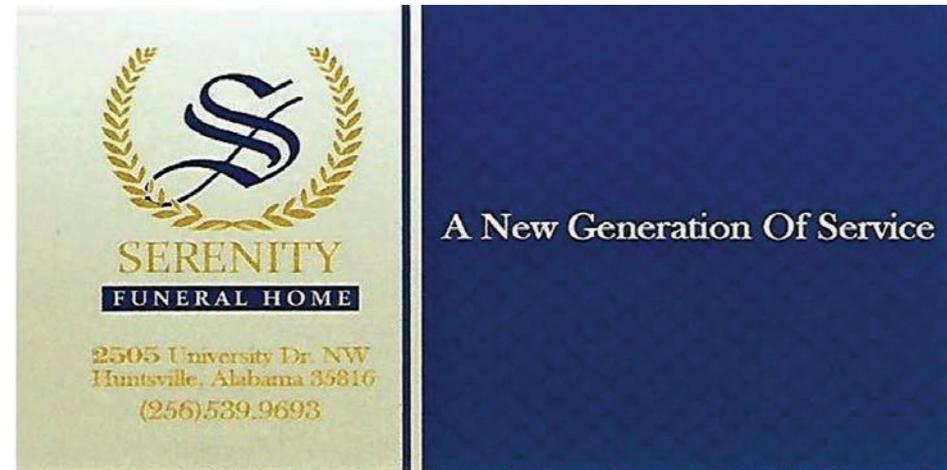
Trevor Noah  
"Loud & Clear"  
Von Braun Center Concert Hall

# Alphas Plan Annual MLK Unity Breakfast, Parade

The Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., will hold its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast on Monday, January 20, 2020, at the Von Braun Center North Hall 1-3.

The Martin Luther King Day Parade will be held in Downtown Huntsville on Saturday, January 18, from 12 noon-1:30 p.m. The starting point is Lot K at 620 Clinton Avenue West. The parade theme is "Keeping the Dream Alive!"

For more information, visit [www.dtlalpha.org](http://www.dtlalpha.org).



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## Champion Game Plan for Life *by Preston Brown*

### "Getting Your Passion Back"

In Psalms 51:10, David writes: "Create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit in me."

Do you still have passion for what God has called you to do? No matter what your position is, we all need passion. Because if you have a real passion for something, you will continue to do it, no matter what your circumstance may be. Now, even the best can lose their passion if they don't practice the purpose that God has for their lives. For



example, when David ran to the battle lines to defeat the mighty Goliath he had passion. But a decade later, when he was in the

"palace," he had lost his passion. Remember, the bible tells us in 2 Samuel 11, "When kings normally go off to war, David stayed home." And while he was

at home he got in trouble with Bathsheba. And after going through all of that drama, David needed his passion back. So when David wrote the 51st psalm, he was confessing to God, that he had a pure passion when he first started, but now he had allowed some things to come into his life that had taken his passion away.

This year, we need to realize that we may have to walk away from some things to get our passion back and to rediscover the purpose that God has for our lives ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

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# Valley Deaths

**NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME - 2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189**

*Memorial service for MR. DAUN R. CORNELIOUS (b. 1954) will be Saturday, January 18, at 2 p.m. at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with The Reverend Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.*

*Funeral service for REVEREND MARY LEE PINCHEON LESLIE (b. 1926) was held Saturday, January 11, at the Consolidated Flint River and Running Water Memorial Tabernacle with The Reverend Lester Baker officiating.*

*Funeral service for MR. JOHNNIE DAVIS (b. 1934) was held Saturday, January 11, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church (759 Pine Grove Road - Harvest, Ala.) with The Reverend Wesley Thompson officiating.*

*Funeral service for MRS. HATTIE MAE MOORE-PICKETT (b. 1948) was held Saturday, January 4, at Phillips Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church (Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Archie Emanuel officiating.*

**ROYAL FUNERAL HOME - 4315 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481**

*Funeral service for EVANGELIST LUCILE CORE BURRELL (b. 1943) will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, January 18, at the Pentecostal Lighthouse Church (6107 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.).*

*Funeral service for MRS. CEBELL FLETCHER (b. 1929) was held Tuesday, January 14, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (315 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Mary Katherine Baker officiating.*

*Funeral service for MR. JIMMY CRUTCH (b. 1957) was held Monday, January 13, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.).*

*Funeral service for MR. EDDIE DEAN WATTS (b. 1958) will be held at 12 noon, Friday, January 17, at Blackburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (507 Plummer Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Thaddues Fletcher officiating.*

**SERENITY FUNERAL HOME - 2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693**

*Funeral service for MS. ROSIE DAVIS will be held Saturday, January 18, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel, 2505 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.*

*Funeral service for MRS. DORIS JEAN PETTAWAY-DRAKE was held Wednesday, January 8, at House of Hope and Restoration Church, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Jarman Leatherwood officiating.*

## The Last Stage

by Carey Link

I try to read the colorless, asymmetrical hieroglyphics

in malignant, bilateral, inoperable...

My systemic silhouette sifts the sand in my hourglass house

through cycles of daylight and darkness.

He leads as we dance on a frayed tightrope.

He dares me to learn the routine as I go—

and jump over its holes with my eyes closed.

While I learn to breathe again.

*Living with metastatic breast cancer has increased my patience and gratitude for life.*

*This poem has previously appeared on the Living Beyond Breast Cancer blog at [www.lbbc.org](http://www.lbbc.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.



City 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. People can sign up for notices of Council meetings and special sessions online at <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1825550/1780821/>

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

## A Good Read

by Jerome Saintjones



### William Henry Lewis' "Shades"

One very hot summer day at an annual blues festival in a small Southern town, a mother points out to her son the father he had never seen.

Throughout the son's fourteen years, his mother had not spoken much of his father, except to tell him about how the man she loved had come home drunk one night, had his way with her and then left on a train for the North, leaving his sweaty work shirt on the bedpost. The father had not returned to her and probably did not know that, in addition to leaving a woman who loved him, he had left a child.

At first, the boy watches his father from a distance, as his dad appears to be the cool leader of a pack of men intent on having a good time on their quick pass through their hometown.

His curiosity gets the best of him, so the boy works his way through the crowd and gets the attention of the man who was his father in every realm but inside the father's head.

The boy is perfectly willing to accept his father as he is, but his father is called away to other adventures ("We got ladies waiting!") by his buddies. Before his father leaves, he gives the boy his shades.

As though possessed by a thought, he looks beyond the boy, the crowd and the railroad tracks, as though pushed to recall that final night when he forced himself on a woman who loved and believed in him, perhaps leaving a part of himself behind.



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# Called 2 Preach

by Pastor/Founder Michael D. Rice  
Grace Gethsemane Mission Church

## Obstacles, But Not Options

When Jesus was led to the wilderness by the Spirit for a time of testing and preparation for the inauguration of His ministry, this was specified as an intentional confrontation with the devil.

We know from the story that this diabolical destiny killer tried three times to

get Jesus to choose another option than the one that had been providentially chosen for Him before the foundation of the world.

Jesus' use of the word of God teaches us that on this journey as believers, we will always have obstacles, but when it comes to doing God's will, there are no options.

Every word, Jesus noted, from the word of God gives life to the soul just as food does to the physical body.

While we do have options when it comes to foods, there are no varieties when it comes to the word of God.

We see that fact in the story of Jesus in the wilderness because He met each test with the word. Even though there was a different scripture used each time, there were not three different options for the three different tests.

Too often believers choose options, when faced

with obstacles; however, the word of God is clear that it is a lamp unto our feet and light unto our pathway.

So, when we face obstacles, our Elder Brother has taught us that we are not to look for options, but rather we are to obey the word and will of God.



**“The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated.”**

- William James

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Rev. James Lane

A veteran of the U.S. Navy (where he served stints in Shanghai, China; Okinawa, Japan; and the Philippines as a 1st Class Steward's Mate), Rev. James Lane is a product of Union and Council Training Schools. He also earned a diploma from CTI in Chicago; pursued further study at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee, as well as at Alabama A&M University and Atlanta University.

Rev. Lane received his certificate of ordination from the Mallard Creek Primitive Baptist Association in 1960. By 1965, he was elected to the pastorate of Taylor's Chapel. Within seven years, the church annexed the ground of the former Number Four Hall School and, a

decade later, set the stage for the occupation of its present site. He would continue to grow spiritually and professionally, pursuing additional training in counseling for clergyman. Further church growth was acknowledged through the dedication of a new addition in 2011.

Active throughout the community, Pastor Lane has served as Vice Moderator of the Mallard Creek Primitive Baptist Association, and he has been called upon for his leadership and knowledge of Association structure. Moreover, he has served at all levels of leadership with the local, state and tri-state affiliates of the Baptist Convention. He has been a member of the Greater Huntsville Interdenomina-



tional Ministerial Fellowship since its founding more than 50 years ago.

Pastoring and preaching has been his calling. When asked about the number of people baptized, baby christenings, weddings, funerals and meetings over which he has presided, Rev. Lane replies, "I have lost count."



**JANUARY 17 - MICHELLE OBAMA** - The wife of the nation's First Black American President, Barack Obama, Michelle Obama is America's First Black First Lady. A graduate of Harvard Law School, she has been involved with several causes, including childhood obesity, homelessness and public service.

- BlackinTime.info

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## Preparing for Unforeseen Tennessee Valley Disasters

(BPT) - If emergency officials in your community issued a mandatory evacuation order to get out of the path of a wildfire, hurricane or other natural disaster, would you know what to take with you, the evacuation route you would take and where you would go until it was safe to return home?

In short, do you have a personal evacuation plan in place?

If you answered "yes," you're like 49% of the 1,795 respondents Mercury Insurance recently surveyed for its emergency preparedness quiz. However, if the question was rephrased to inquire about "having an evacuation plan and practicing it at least once a year," the results show only 23% meet this criteria.

"Safety should be your first priority in any situation involving a possible disaster or emergency event, and you should respond to mandatory evacuation orders immediately," said Christopher O'Rourke, vice president of property claims at Mercury Insurance. "Your first instinct might be to panic, so having an evacuation plan in place and practicing it regularly will help ensure you and your family are ready to go at a moment's notice. And it will also help alleviate some of the stress and anxiety that will undoubtedly be a part of such a nerve-racking situation."

The survey also revealed that 39% of homeowners were unsure if they have



enough coverage to rebuild if their home is damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster, and 34% don't have a home inventory they could provide to their insurance company to help get these items replaced. "Home-owners and renters should make a point of touching base with their insurance agents at least once a year to reassess coverage needs," said O'Rourke. "It's a good idea to make sure you have enough coverage as you accumulate more belongings, make changes to your home or your family expands - these details may affect your policy limits, as well as create a need for endorsements you might want to consider adding to your policy."

There is some good news, however, as 88% of respondents said they have an in-home emergency kit stocked with essential items they will need if disaster strikes. If you don't have a kit, here is a list of the items you may want to include in your kit:

\* A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person), non-perishable food items and pet food, if applicable;

\* A battery-powered or hand-crank radio (and extra batteries);

\* A flashlight;

\* A first aid kit;

\* A whistle to signal for help;

\* A can opener;

\* Blankets;

\* Tools to turn off utilities;

\* \$200 in cash in small bills, as power may be out, making ATMs, debit and credit cards unusable;

\* Fully charged battery packs so you can recharge your cell phone; and

\* Prescriptions for you and your pets.

The bottom line is that extreme weather events are anticipated to increase, and you can never be too cautious or over-prepared to protect against Mother Nature. "It's a bit alarming to discover that, although natural disasters are in the news on a seemingly regular basis, many Americans still aren't properly preparing themselves if one happens in their neighborhood or city," said O'Rourke. "These events can have serious repercussions and adopting a wait-and-see attitude is not an option."

## Noted Author Addresses OU

by Reggie Allen

New York Times best-selling author and film producer DeVon Franklin spent the weekend in the Rocket City for a series of speaking engagements at Oakwood University. Franklin was the featured speaker for the church's annual "Back to School" revival and the guest pastor for its Divine Worship Experience sermon.

Franklin, who was joined by his wife actress Meagan Good also participated in question and answer panel that was moderated by Oakwood staff and media personality David Person. During the panel, the couple discussed topics regarding marriage, abstinence, and maintaining their faith while working in the entertainment industry.

Beginning his career as an intern to A-listers Will Smith and James Lassiter, Franklin gradually climbed the cooperate ladder, ultimately becoming the Director of Development for Columbia Pictures. Throughout his career, he lent his hand in producing popular film's "The Karate Kid", "The Pursuit of Happiness" and "Hancock."

In 2014, the seasoned producer launched his entertainment company Franklin Entertainment, which currently boasts 4 films. The esteemed producer is the author of four books: Produced by Faith, The Hollywood Commandments, The Truth About Men, and The Wait, which he co-wrote with Good.



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