

AAMU Foster Dining Hall Reopens, p. 4

FREE

KELLY: 'To Your Health,' p. 8

Friday
January 28, 2022
Vol. 8, No. 21
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Albert Merrell Morris

The Valley Weekly

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." – T. S. Eliot

Huntsvillian to Boost DEI

U'Meeka Smith, a Huntsville, Ala., native, was recently named the first Assistant Director of the City's Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI).



Smith joins DEI Director Kenny Anderson in shoring up the office, which was set up to help create a more inclusive Rocket City.

Smith joins DEI Director Kenny Anderson in shoring up the office,

BHM Theme Targets Health

This year's theme for Black History Month---"Black Health and Wellness"--takes a look at how American healthcare has often underserved the African-American community.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has recently shown, a widespread disparity of access to quality healthcare negatively impacts outcomes for blacks and other minorities.

For African-Americans, the root of the problem goes deep, and back centuries.

Beginning with slavery, a lack of economic opportunity often put medical care out of reach for many African-Americans.

Even in good economic times, during the Jim Crow era "Whites Only" hospitals were commonplace throughout the South. Black medical facilities were often underfunded, or nonexistent.

Bryant Bank Gives \$100K to UAH College of Nursing

The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), a part of The University of Alabama System, has announced Bryant Bank has made a gift of \$100,000 to the UAH College of Nursing for this year.

This current disbursement to the college is an annual gift as part of a total pledge of \$3 million over 30 years. Bryant Bank's continuing commitment to UAH nursing goes to support a nursing scholarship plan called Early Promotion into UAH Nursing Program (EPNP).

Established in 2014, EPNP is an honors program offered by the College of Nursing to highly qualified students who enter UAH as freshmen and declare nursing as their major.

Through this program they may take all the lower division nursing coursework on the UAH campus and are guaranteed placement in upper division nursing courses.

EPNP provides students an opportunity to have enriched freshman and sophomore years in the UAH Honors College in preparation for admittance into upper division nursing coursework.

"We are excited and proud to be able to provide another \$100,000 gift to the UAH College of Nursing for the 'Excellence in Nursing' scholarship program," says Ken Watson, Bryant Bank Huntsville Market President. "Through this contribution, Bryant Bank has now given \$800,000

over the past eight years to help UAH continue to recruit outstanding undergraduate nursing school students. We are grateful for this opportunity to continue to support UAH and the College of Nursing, as well as helping to provide qualified nursing professionals to our community."

The Bank offers 16 branches and one loan production office in five of Alabama's six largest markets and employs over 260 bankers.

RJF Scholarship Apps Accepted

The Rosetta James Foundation is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship distribution through mid-February. The Foundation, which honors active volunteerism among persons 70-plus years of age, awarded some \$40,000



in scholarships last year.

Visit rosettajamesfoundation.org for info.

Barriers Erected Prior to Garage Demolition

Crews have installed barriers and fencing around Municipal Parking Garage A as demo on the structure will begin in the two weeks.

Drivers should use caution as portions of Fountain Circle and Gates Avenue have been restriped



to accommodate the work zone, according to the City of Huntsville.

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 recess this week.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE.

Over the weekend at Camp David, President Biden met with his national security team on the Russia-Ukraine situation and last Friday, after holding talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that the President and Russian President Putin might meet soon to seek a solution to the standoff.

Also on Friday, President Biden held a virtual meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, at which the President accepted an invitation to visit Japan in the late spring and to participate in a meeting of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue – known as the “Quad” – with the leaders of Japan, India and Australia.

On Friday, Politico reported that the White House’s strategy for 2022 includes: (1) increased travel for President Biden around the nation to engage with voters; (2) ramped up attacks on Republicans ahead of the midterm elec-

tions in November; and (3) a greater emphasis on touting the accomplishments of the Administration to date.

3. AID TO UKRAINE.

Last Saturday, the U.S. Embassy in Kiev announced that part of \$200 million in ammunition and other security assistance for Ukraine’s military (as authorized by Congress) had arrived in the country early that morning, with Russia massing around 127,000 of its troops on the Ukraine border.

On Sunday, the State Department ordered all family members of U.S. embassy personnel in Kiev to leave the country and gave non-essential embassy staff the option to leave.

4. THE SUPREME COURT.

Last Wednesday, the Supreme Court issued an unsigned order with only Justice Clarence Thomas dissenting, rejecting former President Trump’s emergency request to block the release of White House records concerning the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, effectively nullifying Mr. Trump’s claim of executive privilege and clearing the way for the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol

to receive the documents.

According to The New York Times, within hours of the decision on Wednesday, the National Archives began turning over hundreds of pages of documents to the committee, in-

cluding logs showing phone calls to the President and to Vice President Mike Pence and handwritten notes from then-White House chief of staff Mark Meadows.

5. FEDERAL RESERVE MEETING.

The Federal Reserve’s Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) met on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss the state of the

economy and the pace at which it will boost interest rates this year.

At a December 2021 meeting, the FOMC projected to hike rates in 3 quarter-percentage-point increases in 2022. The annual inflation rate for the U.S. hit 7.0% for the 12 months that ended in December 2021 — the highest since June 1982.

6. VACCINE MANDATES.

Last Friday, a federal district court judge in Houston, TX, blocked the Biden Administration from enforcing its COVID-19 vaccine mandate for 3.5 million federal workers, (to date 98% of federal workers have been vaccinated). The decision follows recent rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court that blocked the Biden Administration from enforcing its vaccine-or-test

rule for 84 million private sector workers employed in companies of 100 or more employees, but upheld the vaccine mandate for 17 million health care workers.

7. HIGHER EDUCATION.

Today, Hamm Consulting Group will attend a policy session hosted by the American Council on Education concerning key higher education issues before Congress. The meeting also will examine how this election year will impact higher education policy on Capitol Hill.

Ron Hamm

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This Sunday's Lectionary

(Track 2 - Year C)

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Fourth Sunday After the
Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-1

Psalms 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**VALLEY
DEATHS**



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Graveside service for the REVEREND LARNELL MC-COMB JONES was held Tuesday, January 25, at Valley View Memorial Gardens in Meridianville, Ala.

Funeral service for MR. STANLEY LEE PARKER (b. 1962) was held Saturday, January 22, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Dennis Green officiating.

Funeral service for MS. E. OLIVIA TYLER (b. 1962) was held Friday, January 21, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Public viewing for MR. CLARENCE H. KENNEMER (b. 1944) was held Thursday, January 20, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MR. TOMMY LEE JOLLY (b. 1936) will be 12:30 p.m., Sunday, January 30, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Funeral service for MRS. EVIE ANN BELL (b. 1938) was held Tuesday, January 25, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Henry Brown officiating.

Funeral service for MR. NATHANIEL JOHNSON (b. 1950) will be 10 a.m., Monday, January 24, at the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church (2562 Bob Wade Lane, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Ricky Sykes officiating.

Funeral service for MR. GERALD D. GREEN (b. 1987) was held Sunday, January 23, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Wallace Steele officiating.

Graveside service for MINISTER MICHAEL ANTHONY MORTON-BERRY (b. 1971) was held Saturday, January 22, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Rd NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Gregory Miller officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MR. MONTRELL DA'QUAN WILSON (b. 2001) was held Thursday, January 23, at Serenity Funeral Home.



January 29

Walk for Freedom
Budding Hope Ministries
Lewter's Hardware
2 p.m.

"Cats"

Mark C. Smith Concert
Hall
Von Braun Center
8 p.m.

January 30

Harlem Globetrotters
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
3 p.m.

February 2

"Simon and Garfunkel
Story"
Mark C. Smith Concert
Hall
Von Braun Center
7:30 p.m.

February 4

"Dog Days at the Garden"
Huntsville Botanical
Garden
9 a.m.

Master Artist Workshop
with Alan Shuptrine
Huntsville Museum of Art
9 a.m.

February 5

Celebrating Black History
Month at Burritt on the
Mountain

February 10-March 1

Mardi Gras at MidCity
The Camp

February 27

"Celtic Woman - Postcards
from Ireland"
Mark C. Smith Concert
Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**CHAMPION
GAME PLAN**

PRESTON BROWN

UNDIVIDED

Hebrews 12:1 says, *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

When I was in high school, I was fortunate enough to run on the 4x100-yard relay team that won the state title. Now, in order for us to accomplish this as a team, we had to be "undivided". In other words, we had to remove the things that hindered us ... Things like pride and selfishness, we had to get rid of because in order to run the race that was set before us, we all had to be encouraging to one another. We also had to prepare for exchanging the baton to the next runner. If we were undivided as a team, a bad exchange was almost certain. Because it

was such a fast race, many races were lost due to a bad exchange. Today, we are running in a different kind of race because we are running the race for our lives, and we don't need a "bad exchange".

Now when we read this scripture, the writer of Hebrews talks about being "surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses." Just like today, we also have had great people of faith that have set good examples for all of us to live by. People like Martin Luther King, John Lewis, Rosa Parks, just to name a few, were trying to "pass the baton" to a new generation of people. However, we have to be ready to accept the baton, but we can't have a good exchange if we are undivided. So, how can we come together as a nation and is it even possible? Well, in the words of Barack Obama, "Yes, we can."

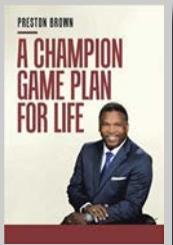
I believe that we start

by echoing the words of this scripture that says "let us throw off everything that hinders

and the sin that so easily entangles." And one of the sins that "easily entangles us" is our unwillingness to see the truth. But now is the time that we can "believe our eyes," even if you don't agree with it!

Now is the time to come together, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all! That's why I believe God wants us to run this race with perseverance that He has marked out for us, which includes accepting the baton from those who have gone on before us and challenging the things that we know are wrong!

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and stay safe! Also remember: you can purchase my book "A Champion Game Plan for Life" at amazon.com.



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A New Generation Of Service

AAMU Completes \$2 Million Renovation at Foster Dining Hall

After a nearly 18-month closure for renovations, Alabama A&M University's Mamie Labon Foster Dining Hall has reopened, significantly expanding dining options for students.

During his welcome and acknowledgements at a brief January 19 ribbon cutting ceremony, President Daniel K. Wims praised the Aramark Food Service team, AAMU's Physical Facilities, Business and Finance, and Student Affairs units for their dedicated "work and planning" in bringing the project to fruition.

Wims added that students were given the opportunity to provide their input in the design for the \$2 million renovation project, as well. The project entailed the replacement and reconfiguration of serving equipment/counters, doors, HVAC and plumbing systems, and new finishes throughout a 7,400-square-foot area. The Foster Dining Hall makes meals more accessible to student residents on the east side of the AAMU campus.

Trustee Richard Crunkleton said the newly renovated facility "will

enhance the dining experience, the study experience and the overall experience at Alabama A&M University," while also serving as an important tool to enhance the quality of life."

The Mamie Labon Foster Living/Learning Complex, in which the dining hall is situated, was constructed in 1993.

The five-story residence hall currently houses 500 first-year male and female students. Each apartment suite has two bedrooms and living space for four students, who share a common living room and kitchen area.

"Today is a good day for the students of this university, and it's been a long time coming," said Austin Smith, trustee and executive president of AAMU's Student Government Association. He went on to thank his fellow students for their patience and resilience throughout the past year. He called the cafeteria "better than ever." Smith urged students to "not take the



memories you'll make here for granted, because they'll truly last a lifetime."

"The core values and strategic priorities of this institution align very well with this project," said Alisdair MacLean, a 26-year regional vice president for Aramark Higher Education. "We will strive for excellence in everything we do."

Felicia Wilson, director of food services for Aramark at AAMU, announced that "full services to include the much-awaited dine-in option" would resume January 20.

"Since the mid-1990s the Foster dining facility has provided a modern and more intimate setting that is readily accessible for stu-

at full capacity, the facility's number can expand to about 350 students."

The Living/Learning Complex was named in honor of Dr. Mamie Labon Foster. Born June 12, 1912, in Rosedale, Ala., she completed studies at Alabama A&M Institute High School and received the junior college diploma and B.S.

degree (1946) in elementary education from what was then Alabama A&M College. She completed two master's degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University in New York.

Dr. Foster served over 46 years in the demanding field of education in the Jefferson County (Ala.) school system. Moreover, she taught courses at Daniel Payne College and AAMU's former Birmingham Extension Center, and became president pro tempore of AAMU's Board of Trustees.

Other program participants included Dr. Lynda Batiste, interim vice president for business and finance, who served as president; and Dr. Brit-tany Holloman, interim associate vice president for student affairs.

- J. Saintjones

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Is Prayer in Your “National Breakfast”? (Part 1 of 3)

On February 3, 2022, and on each first Thursday in February since the 1930s, Washington DC’s Hilton Hotel and U.S. Congress members host the National Prayer Breakfast. It brings together top business, social and political leaders to pray.

With business, social and political upheavals eyeballing us daily, let’s focus for the next three weeks on how now more than ever prayer needs to be your and my “national breakfast.”



In many persons’ minds, our nation is plummeting to its lowest point.

In 1989, when I was at my lowest point financially and emotionally, Mom and Dad sent me this pick-me-up quotation:

“Prayer is the answer to every problem in life. It puts us in tune with Divine wisdom which knows how to adjust everything perfectly.

“So often we do not pray in certain situations because from our standpoint the outlook is hopeless. But nothing is impossible with God.

“Nothing is so entangled that it cannot be remedied. No human relationship is so strained that God cannot bring about reconciliation and understanding.

“No one is so weak that he cannot be made strong; no one is so ill that he or she cannot be healed; and no mind is so dull that it cannot be made brilliant.

“Whatever we need, if we trust God, He will supply it. And if anything is causing you worry or anxiety, let us stop rehearsing the difficulty and turn to God for

Healing, Love, and Power.”

I now share this message with you because it remains so powerful, personal, and portable. Read it, recite it and yes, even memorize it. I did, and it works. Every day.

Is prayer on your breakfast menu today?

Next week, we’ll talk about prayer’s “secret sauce,” and then conclude with a powerful example of prayer’s results.



Funding Allows Expansion of Governors Drive

Gov. Kay Ivey’s office recently announced more than \$40 million would be awarded to cities as part of ATRIP-II. Funding for the program is made available by the Rebuild Alabama Act, which sets gas tax revenue from the Alabama Department of Transportation for road projects.

“While our work is far from over, we have made significant progress in improving our roads and bridges thanks to Rebuild Alabama,” Ivey said in a statement. “I look forward to continue putting every single penny of these funds to good use for the people of Alabama.”

A busy Huntsville thoroughfare will undergo significant improvements as part of the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program-II (ATRIP-II) infrastructure improvement initiative.

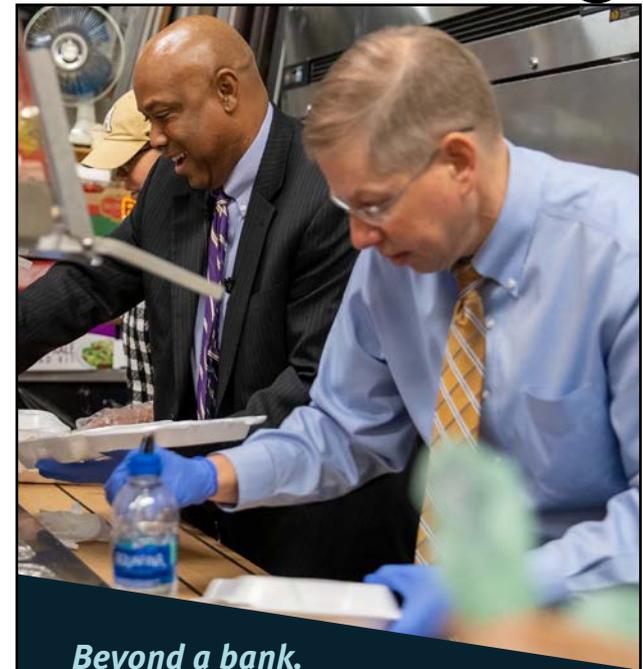
The City of Huntsville will receive \$1.35 million to

widen 1,600 feet of U.S. 431 (Governors Drive) from east of Franklin Street to east of Bassett Street. The City will not be required to contribute matching funds as part of the project.

Mayor Tommy Battle directed his administration to work with state leaders to steer the project through the competitive grant process.

“The City is grateful to the members of Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program Committee, especially committee members Rep. Rex Reynolds and Sen. Arthur Orr of the Madison County delegation, for their assistance in securing these funds that will help the citizens of Huntsville,” Mayor Battle said.

The project was selected by the ATRIP-II Committee created by the Rebuild Alabama Act. All projects are required to move forward within two years.



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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 real question is not whether life exists after death.
The real question is whether you are alive before your death.”*

– Osho

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CALLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

Let It Grow! Let It Grow! Let It Grow!

James 1:2-4

As I write this, we are just a few weeks into the new year of 2022. The December holiday season was filled with songs, both secular and sacred. One of the more popular secular songs of the season is one entitled, *Let it Snow*. The lyricist put pen to parchment and wrote, *Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful,*

since we've no place to go, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

The Spirit awakened the preacher and songwriter in me as I read the NLT translation of James 1:2-4.

It reads: ²Dear brothers and sisters,^[a] when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴So let it grow (my emphasis), for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Therefore, James says



there is a perspective that is necessary (joy), while we go through the process of our faith being tested (endurance training), and that the results will be

perfection (maturity).

There are no short cuts. So I put pen to parchment and came up with these words, *Oh the trials I face*

are MANY, sometimes I wish I didn't have ANY, but that's the only way my faith can grow, so let it grow, let it grow, let it grow.



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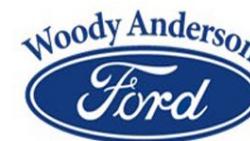
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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Mr. Albert Merrell Morris

Long-time local businessman and florist Albert Merrell Morris has served the Huntsville area for over six decades. Straight out of college to his noble service in the Navy, Morris started working full-time at the business then on Pulaski Pike. His name was chosen for the retail store since "Albert" started with an "A". The business started with an initial investment of about \$3,000 from the late Thomas Vivian Morris, a professor of botany and horticulture at Alabama A&M University and his late wife Ruth Daniels Morris. Thomas earned several tree patents while a professor at AAMU.

The wholesale greenhouses started in 1965 with

brother Roland Morris as manager. The talented native of rural Eufaula, Ala., and AAMU horticulture graduate, joined his brother, sister-in-law and his five-year-old daughter (who put stamps on the envelopes with the bills in them) in launching a signature floral service in the Tennessee Valley.

Albert's Flowers began in 1958 and today is thought to be the longest running floral business in Huntsville, Ala. He was always around prestigious people at AAMU, where his parents worked. They were all doing important things; therefore, he just thought operating a business was part of being members of the community.



Today, Morris' business supplies florals and gifts all over the world. As a family-owned business, Albert's Flowers is committed to offering only the finest floral arrangements and gifts, backed by service that is friendly, prompt and caring--always going the extra mile.

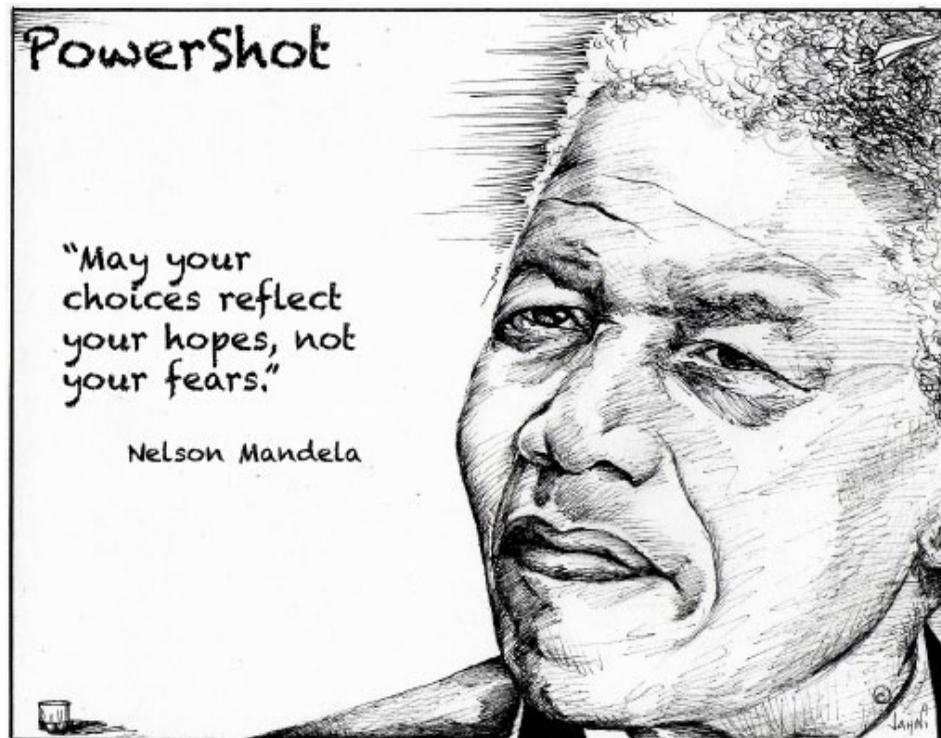
"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valley-weeklyllc.com.



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Celebrate History

February 5th • 10am-4pm

Celebrate African American Heritage at Burritt on the Mountain

10:30 am – Learn about Dr. Gladys West, the history of GPS technology and how to use a GPS device to find a geocache.

11:30 am – From Photos to Quilts Discussion with Artist Tiavalya Befecadu

1:00 pm – "A Place Called Oakwood: A historical look at a small university campus in Huntsville" by Raymond King the Director of Student Activities

2:00 pm – Rosenwald School Activities and History

3:00 pm – Learn about Dr. Gladys West, the history of GPS technology and how to use a GPS device to find a geocache.



burriftonthemountain.com

JANUARY 28 - J. COLE - Jermaine Lamarr Cole is an American rapper, singer, songwriter and record producer. Born on a military base in Germany but raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Cole initially gained recognition as a rapper following the release of his debut mixtape, *The Come Up*.
- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**ALL FOR
 THE FAMILY**
 "TO YOUR HEALTH"

The year 2022 affords individuals and families opportunities to improve areas that did not reach their expectations in 2021.

The traumatic experiences many families have encountered over the past several months--tornados, fires, snow storms and, yes, COVID 19 and the Omicron virus, have destroyed houses, cars, businesses, killed family members, and left victims devastated about how to restore their losses. Sadly, some losses cannot be replaced.

A closer examination of the calamities resulting from these crises, reveals that, unfortunately, victims did not have insurance to help pay for damages.

Concurrence among many financial experts recommend that families should have at least four types of insurance: Health, life, auto, home/renters and disability.

Let's look at health. If one has reasonably good health, he/she can most likely find a job. However, if one is in poor health,



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

with no insurance security, they face major financial liabilities, some have to file bankruptcy, lose their homes, cars and even their families.

According to a survey conducted on more than 900 families who filed bankruptcy in 2019, medi-

cal problems from bills or loss of income due to illness or both forced them to take this drastic action. The best and least expensive insurance option is with an employer's program. Therefore, when deciding on a job, always give high priority to the one that offers the best benefits.

Things to consider before purchasing health insurance: Which category can you afford: bronze, silver, gold or platinum?

Secondly, your total cost for health care. What will be your monthly premium be (even if you don't use your insurance)? And, thirdly, what is your deductible?

This is to give you a BIG SHOUT OUT for continuing an outstanding local Newspaper with photos large enough to tell who it is focused on. Thanks for all that you do for our community and the Tennessee Valley. Please give a BIG SHOUT OUT to Brother Saintjones, as well.

*Warm Regards,
 Sister (Katie) Byrd*

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