

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

FREE

## A&M, OU Partner with UAB, p. 5

Janie Holifield, p. 7

*"I am a woman phenomenally, phenomenal woman that is your grandmother, that is your mother, that is your sister, that is you and that is me."*

- Maya Angelou



POSITIVE-INSPIRATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL

Friday

May 7, 2021

Vol. 7, No. 35

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

### Inspirational Author Achieves Amazon Ranking

According to Amazon's "Hot New Releases" ranking, U.S. Politics The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders debuted today at #1 for "New Releases in Two-Hour Politics & Social Sciences Short Reads" category.

"U.S. Politics is arguably the first and only post-2020 presidential election recap from a Biblical perspective," explained author-publisher tim allston of Huntsville, Alabama.

U.S. Politics' chapter titles posed primary 2020 presidential election questions, allston continued, and the Bible answered each question.

Book reviewer Barry A. Lehman cites 5.0 out of 5 stars: "Unique, Timely, and More Than Just Interesting," (Reviewed in the United States on April 30, 2021): "Tim Allston pulls off a unique look at the recent election season with a Biblical-based look at leadership."

Allston encourages readers to submit their book reviews at <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B093JLK5J7#customer/Reviews>.

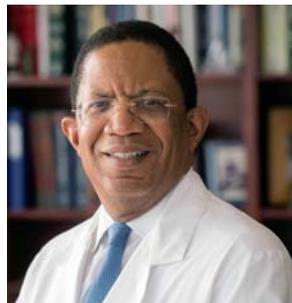


### Locals Take on Important New Roles

The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has nominated Huntsvillian Kimberly 'Kim' Caudle Lewis (above left) to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority or TVA.

Lewis is the Chief Executive Officer of PROJETXYZ Inc., a business that provides services and products in the areas of engineering, logistics, technical services, manufacturing and international foreign military sales. She leads a workforce that supports federal and commercial customers across several diverse subsidiaries and at locations across the United States and around the world.

Dr. Selywyn Vickers, also a Huntsville native, serves as dean of the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of



Medicine, has been named president of the American Surgical Association for 2021.

Founded in 1880, the American Surgical Association is the nation's oldest and most prestigious surgical organization. The organization's membership includes the nation's most prominent surgeons.

### Friends Honor Elder with 'Drive-by'

Many family members, friends and others recognized Rosetta James Foundation Elder Josephine Robinson recently by participating in a 'drive-by.'

The jubilant supporters were celebrating Robinson's 81st birthday with well wishes, gifts, love and appreciation.

(Photo by Peggy Etheridge)

### HATCH to Empower Young Adults

Garrett Coyne, one of the co-founders of HATCH, a new local nonprofit, is focusing on Huntsville's hospitality industry through a workforce development initiative designed for 18- to 24-year-old young old adults.

This summer, the program will run for 8 weeks to teach and train students in hospitality, culinary arts and financial literacy.

The students selected will earn a \$1,200 stipend for their participation. The timing is excellent because many restaurants have been challenged with finding qualified employees



due to the pandemic.

Information about the application process for this



program will be available soon at [hatchhsv.com](http://hatchhsv.com).



## 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 Senate is in recess this week, while the House is in a "committee work period" during which there are no floor votes, but a full schedule of hearings and markups will take place.

2) **THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Monday, President Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden traveled to the Norfolk, Va., area to visit Tidewater Community College and Yorktown Elementary School to promote the proposed "American Families Plan," a \$1.8 trillion package focused on education, child care and paid family leave, which includes a \$200 billion universal pre-K program for 3- and 4-year-olds and a \$109 billion program that would pay for two years of community college. On Tuesday, the President made remarks about the pandemic response and vaccination campaign. On Wednesday, he spoke about the American Rescue Plan implementation.

On Thursday, President Biden traveled to Louisiana to visit sites in New Orleans and Lake Charles, including a stop at the Carrollton Water Purification Plant upgraded in 2017 with \$50 million from FEMA, to promote his \$2.2 trillion infrastructure plan. On Friday, he will speak about the economy and go to Camp David for the weekend. On Monday, Vice President Harris swore in former Florida Senator Bill Nelson as NASA Administrator. Last week, the Administration announced that it is canceling further construction of the wall along the U.S. and Mexico border, after earlier this year freezing money for border wall construction projects and terminating the national emergency declaration along the border.

3) **COVID RESTAURANT RELIEF GRANTS.** Applications opened Monday for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, created by the American Rescue Plan enacted on March 11, 2021, to provide funding to help restaurants, bars, bakeries,

food trucks, and caterers who have suffered lost business due to the coronavirus pandemic. Recipients are not required to repay the funding as long as funds are used for eligible uses no later than March 11, 2023.

4) **TSA MASK RULE.** Last Friday, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that it extended through September 13, 2021, its orders requiring people to wear masks at airports, on commercial airlines, and on buses and trains.

5) **HOUSE REAPPORTIONMENT.** On April 30, a group of 17 GOP House Members, led by House Oversight Committee Ranking Republican James Comer (R-KY), sent a letter to Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo alleging that the White House interfered with the apportionment count released by the Census Bureau last week. In a surprise, the numbers showed Texas and Florida gaining only 2 seats and 1 seat, respectively, when they had expected to gain an additional seat each.

6) **HOMELESS STUDENTS.** Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Rob Portman (R-OH) introduced the Homeless Children and Youth Act last week, a bill that would change how the Department of Housing and Urban Development defines homelessness so that more children in unstable housing situations can get access to federal aid. More than one million homeless students

were enrolled in America's public schools last year.

7) **HISTORIC SPLASH-DOWN.** Four astronauts returned from the International Space Station early Sunday morning aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule, splashing down in the Gulf of Mexico nearly six months after arriving at the orbital laboratory in November last year as the first operational, long-duration crew under NASA's Commercial Crew Program. NASA astronauts Mike Hopkins, Victor Glover, and Shannon Walker, and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Soichi Nogu-

chi boarded Crew Dragon and undocked from the space station on time at 8:35 pm EDT Saturday to begin their roughly six-hour trek home. The crew splashed down off the coast of Panama City, Florida at 2:56 am EDT on Sunday, marking the first nighttime splashdown of a crewed U.S. spacecraft since December 1968, when Apollo 8 splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

Ron Hamm

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## HUNTSVILLE AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### Public Meeting Notice

\*\*\*\*\*

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board meets on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 4:00 pm. ALL meetings will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of COH City Hall located at 308 Fountain Circle unless otherwise noted on the Huntsville-Area MPO website at [www.huntsvillempo.org](http://www.huntsvillempo.org). To read the plans up for review at this meeting visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/plans-and-reports/> For all other information on these meetings visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetings-and-agendas/>

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

## UNDIVIDED

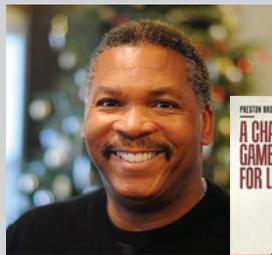
Hebrews 12:1 says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

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. 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 and 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". Because life comes at you fast.

Now, when we read this scripture, the writer of Hebrews talks about being "surrounded by



such a great cloud of witnesses," great people of faith that have set good examples for all of us to live by--people like Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lewis, Rosa Parks, just to name a few. They are trying to "pass the baton" to a new generation of people. However, we have to be ready to accept the baton. We can't have a good exchange, if we are divided. 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.

*"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."*

- Winston S. Churchill

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY DEATHS

## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW

Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Graveside service for MR. LAWRENCE E. DAVIS, III (b. 1954) will be Saturday, May 8, at 11:00 a.m. at Northside Cemetery with Pastor Theodis Acklin officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. DORIS RICH (b. 1957) was held Saturday, May 1, at Saint James Cemetery with Bishop Daniel Richardson officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. JOHNNIE MAE GILBREATH (b. 1940) was held Saturday, May 1, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Graveside service for MRS. GLORIA DAWSON (b. 1929) was held Friday, April 23, at Valhalla Memory Gardens Chapel of Love with The Reverend Dr. Paul Hillard, Jr., officiating.

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue

Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for MR. CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" LAMAR COLE (b. 1973) will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, May 7, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.

Graveside service for MASTER ALIJAH NEVAN SURLS (b. 2018) was held Saturday, May 1, at Pine Grove Memorial Park (759 Pine Grove Road, Unit A, Harvest, Ala.) with Dr. C. Jermaine Turner officiating and Mr. Rodney Surles Jr. and Mrs. Nancy Surles as eulogist.

Graveside service for MRS. LOIS ALINE GURLEY (b. 1938) was held Saturday, May 1, at Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Service for MRS. JANIE ADAMS HOLIFIELD (b. 1936), a Rosetta James Foundation Elder, was held Tuesday, April 27, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Rev. Don Darius Butler officiating and Dr. Julius R. Scruggs as eulogist.

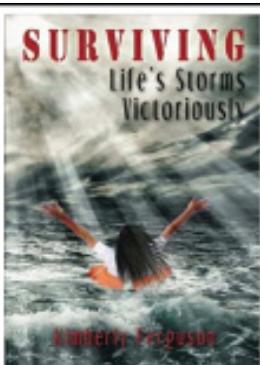


## SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW

Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Funeral Service for MR. NATHAN DEAN (b. 1942), MS. SHELIA HOWARD (b. 1967), MR. CHRISTOPHER FRYER (b. 1999), MS. TA-MARIAN FOSTER (b. 1961), MS. SHERYL ACEA (b. 1955) and REV. FREDERICK HARRIS (b. 1954) will be announced at a later date.



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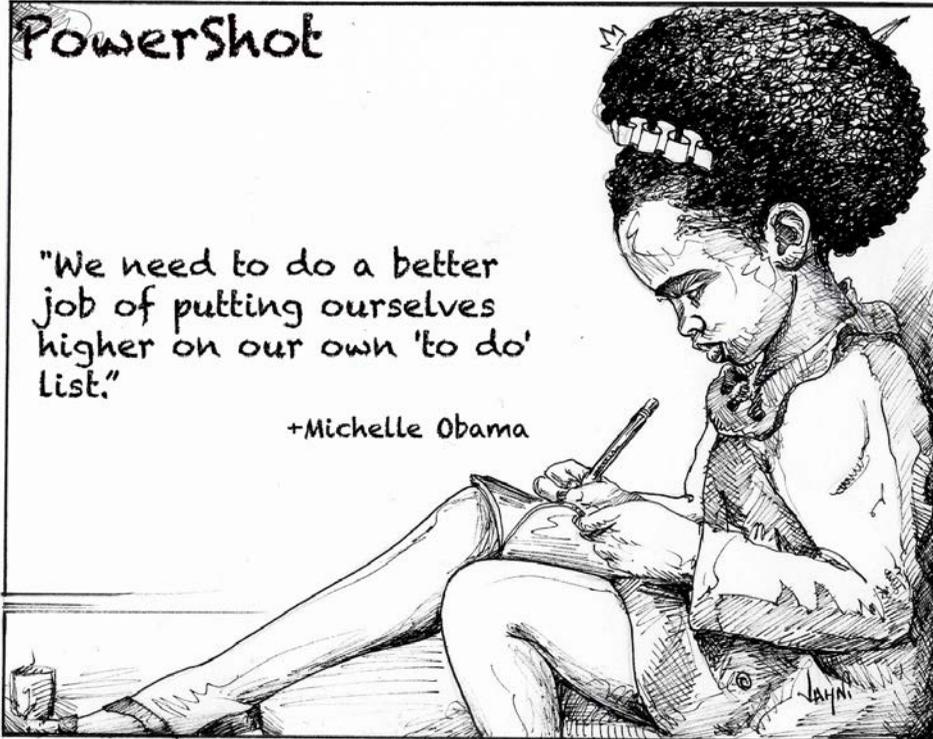
maryspears.cffc@statefarm.com



## PowerShot

"We need to do a better job of putting ourselves higher on our own 'to do' list."

+Michelle Obama



"You can't teach talent. You can't put in what God left out --but you can teach confidence."

- Gloria Naylor

## A&M Hosting Summer Program in Nuclear Engineering

The College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences at Alabama A&M University will host a two-week summer enrichment program to prepare and recruit minority high school students for the nuclear engineering and green power workforce.

Scheduled for June 7-18,

the program is being sponsored by the Dept. of Energy/National Nuclear Security Agency as a key part of an earlier \$4.8 million Scholarly Partnership In Nuclear Security (SPINS) award achieved by Dr. Stephen Egarievwe in the Department of Electrical Engineering and

Computer Science. This program aims to introduce high school students (who have completed 10th or 11th grade by the end of spring 2021) to the foundation and opportunities in the areas of green power, nuclear security, cybersecurity, data science, and nanotechnology.

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- Zora Neale Hurston

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## COVID-19 Assistance

### UNITED WAY COVID-19

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[www.uwmadison-county.org](http://www.uwmadison-county.org)

Get Assistance: Call 211

### SMALL BUSINESSES

[disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)

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(800) 659-2955

### COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department of Labor

(866) 234-5382

[labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov)

### MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(256) 539-3711

### LATEST COVID-19

### INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health

Health

[www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

### TAKEOUT/DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

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



## Beyond Country Music: The Legacy of Charley Pride (1934-2020)

*"Be thou faithful unto death, and I shall give thee a crown of life." - Revelation 2:10*

Here, the Apostle John revealed that when you continue serving faithfully until your death, God guarantees you will be rewarded afterward. Yet, there are different rewards.

Leadership expert Dr. John C. Maxwell differentiates an inheritance (what someone leaves to someone) from a legacy (what someone leaves in someone). And country music legend Charley Pride's life demonstrated such, . . .

Although he was a COVID-19 fatality on December 12, 2020, Pride still serves as a prime example of a legacy that might outdistance his \$40 million estate.



### Trailblazing in Country Music, . . .

Charley Pride's music legacy featured 30 #1 hits on the country charts; following Elvis Presley, he was RCA Records' best-selling performer.

In 2000, he became the first African American inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

### . . . And on the diamond, too!

Before his country music stardom, Pride was a Negro League baseballer with the Memphis Red Sox (1953) and the Birmingham Black Barons (1954). He and his wife Rozene became minority owners of Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers in 2010.

An idea that Pride brought to the ownership group in 2020 is now a reality: On Thursday, March 18, which would've been his 87th birthday, the Charley Pride Fellowship Program began.

This 10-week paid internship would rotate five Black undergraduate fellows through three Rangers front-office departments. The idea is to groom candidates for full-time MLB positions after college.

"This is something we can all say is wonderful for our community because we need diversity in all organizations," explained his widow.

### Now, You're On Deck, . . .

Will you leave an inheritance when you die, or will you create a legacy while you live?

Here's a Charley Pride idea: do both!

*tim allston is the author of U.S. Politics The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders, which will be available on April 29th. Pre-order now on Amazon.*

## Oakwood, AAMU Recruiting Students to UAB Med Program

The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine is partnering with Oakwood University and Alabama A&M University for a new Early Assurance Program, offering qualified students early acceptance to the School of Medicine, along with shadowing and research opportunities.

"Our mission at the UAB School of Medicine is training the next generation of physicians to care for Alabama's citizens. An important aspect of that mission is ensuring that we're developing a physician workforce that reflects our state's population," said Craig J. Hoesley, M.D., senior associate dean for Medical Education at the

UAB School of Medicine.

The Early Assurance Program is open to current Oakwood and AAMU students who have completed their sophomore year.

AAMU Provost Daniel K. Wims admits that expanding the University's footprint in the health professions has been tough.

Applicants must have a minimum 3.5 undergraduate grade point average and a minimum 3.5 grade point average in their science courses to be considered. Preference will be given to Alabama residents.

"This new partnership with the UAB School of Medicine represents a tremendous opportunity for our students to pursue medical education," said

Colwick Wilson, Ph.D., provost and senior vice president at Oakwood. "We thank the UAB leadership for extending this invitation to Oakwood University and to our students, and look forward to working with the School of Medicine for this Early Assurance Program."

"We are pleased to offer our students unique opportunities that make them more competitive while simultaneously allowing them to provide needed services to this state," commented Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., AAMU president. "We are grateful to the UAB School of Medicine for this innovative program and its foresight."



## EXPLORE History

May 15, 2021 • 10am-4pm

**Tell Their Story: Remembering the Scottsboro Boys**  
A Collaboration of Burritt on the Mountain, Francis Tate with CEOTA, John Allison and the Morgan County Archives, and The Scottsboro Boys Museum Scottsboro, AL

Join us on Saturday, as we hear the stories of the Scottsboro Boys, community members, lawyers, the sheriff, and the judge who heard their cases in Decatur. We will also celebrate the people who have worked to ensure that we remember their stories.

[BURRITONTHEMOUNTAIN.COM](http://BURRITONTHEMOUNTAIN.COM)

# CALLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## When 'Thank You' Is Not Appropriate

**Luke 17:7-10**

Ever since I can remember, there was never ever a time in my boyhood days that *thank you* was not

appropriate. As a matter of fact, I can still hear my mother's voice and see her face when the time between someone doing something for us or giving us some-



thing, and our thank you, in her opinion, was too long, she would give us that look and say, "What

are you going to say?"

There was an urgency in her voice that sent us the message that our time had run out on the "thank you" clock. Basketball has its "shot clock," Mama had her "thank you" clock. In other words, in those days "thank you" was always appropriate.

However, I have discov-

ered in my adult years, that in the word of God, the Holy Spirit has deposited within its pages, the shocking reality that there are times when "thank you" is not appropriate.

Jesus is our Teacher, and He gives us in these four verses an example of when that time is. In short, it is when we have done what we have been commanded. In the kingdom we are servants and servants are responsible for two things: *finding* the work and *finishing* the work.

We are to see ourselves as "unprofitable servants."



That does not mean we are not valuable, it means that the delight is in the duty, not that we deserve special praise. That belongs to God.

## THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

### Thru May 23

"Encounters"  
Althea Murphy Price  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
hsvmuseum.org

### Thru July 4

Exhibit  
"Tell Their Story: Remembering the Scottsboro Boys"  
Sponsors:  
Burritt on the Mountain,  
Francis Tate with CEOTA,  
John Allison and the  
Morgan County Archives,  
and The Scottsboro Boys  
Museum Scottsboro, Ala.  
The Burritt Museum

### May 4

Adult Bereavement Group  
The Caring House  
203 Longwood  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5:30 -6:45 p.m.

### May 8

Opening Day  
2021 Gala Art Exhibition  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### May 13

Opening Reception  
Huntsville Photographic  
Society 2021 Members'  
Showcase  
5:30-7 p.m.

### May 15

Senior Center's Spring  
2021  
Craft & Vendor Market-  
place  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

"The Scottsboro Boys  
Remembered"  
Lecture Series and Exhibit  
Tours  
Burritt on the Mountain  
and Rosenwald School  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### May 19

Dedication of Historic  
Markers Honoring Hunts-  
ville Women  
Sponsor:  
League of Women Voters  
of the Tennessee Valley  
YMCA Building  
203 Greene Street  
Huntsville, Ala.

1 p.m.

### May 23

Sidetracks Music Hall  
415 Church Street NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6-8 p.m.

### May 27

Annual Black Tie Scholar-  
ship Gala (Virtual)  
www.aamu.edu/blacktie  
7 p.m.

### June 4

Second Pomeroy Dedic-  
ation  
Sponsor:  
City of Decatur, the Ala-  
bama Women's Suffrage  
Centennial Committee and  
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2 p.m.

### July 9

Reba McEntire  
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Von Braun Center  
8 p.m.

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256-534-1360

**MAY 7 - THELMA HOUSTON is an American singer and actress. She scored a number-one hit in 1977 with her recording of "Don't Leave Me This Way", which won the Grammy for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance.**

- [BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com)



Spotlight on Our Elders ... Remembering

## The Late Janie Holifield

Janie Josephine Adams Holifield, the daughter of the late Clarence and Jennie M. Adams was born on January 19, 1936, in the small cotton hamlet of Leighton, Alabama.

During her teen years, her family moved to Sheffield, Alabama where she attended Sterling High School, where she was outstanding and exceptional athlete, lettering Track and Field and Basketball. Being a popular student, she was elected Homecoming Queen and eventually graduated with honors at the age of 14.

Upon graduating from Alabama A&M College in 1958 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in the field of education. She was hired by the late Mr. Welton Reynolds as a first grade teacher at W. C. Handy Elementary School in Florence, Alabama. Her very first class was composed of 50 eager first grade students. She spent nearly a decade at W. C. Handy School, only to leave her position to marry Freeman Holifield, Sr., in 1965 and returned to Huntsville, Alabama.

In her lifetime, Janie's educational career was filled with many "firsts", including being one of the first African American principals at Elkmont Elementary School in Limestone County, Alabama from 1967 to 1968. She was also one of the very first graduate students to be admitted in the master's degree program in elementary education at the newly renamed Alabama A&M University. Another first was being among the first African American teachers to integrate the teaching ranks at Riverton Middle School in Madison County, Alabama. Her teaching careers spanned across the Atlantic to Germany where she taught in the Department

of Defense Dependent Schools North School System (DODDS-N) from 1971 to 1975. Upon her return to Huntsville she resumed her teaching career and in 1977, Janie became the first African American assistant principal at Gurley High School in Madison County, Alabama. As the assistant principal, she also taught courses in mathematics, reading and science and also served as the grade level coordinator. In 1980, she returned to Germany with her family, where she taught the first grade and served as the reading coordinator and grade level coordinator for DODDS-N in Darmstadt, Germany from 1980 to 1983.

In 1983, she returned to Alabama and continued her teaching career with the Madison County School System at Madison Cross Roads Middle school teaching science and mathematics. In 1984, she returned to her first love, teaching younger students in the first and third grades at Madison Cross Roads Elementary School, where she remained until her retirement in 1995.

Not able to sit still in retirement she returned to Alabama A&M University and worked as a cataloger and procurement specialist at the Drake Learning Resources Library.

Janie was a fixture in the Huntsville Community and was gracious with her time, talents and gift of compassion in serving humanity. She was a woman especially dedicated to supporting youth and empowering people through education, outreach and participation in the community through health and wellness programs and through the art.

She was active in the religious community, as well, no matter where she



lived. Her Faith in God was a large part of her life and the successes and tribulations that she faced in her life. She was a member of First Missionary Baptist Church for over 50 years, where the leadership progressed from Rev. Dr. Horace P. Snodgrass, to Rev. Emuel E. Clever, to Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs and to Rev. Don Darius Butler.

While living in Germany during a second tour of duty in 1980, she started a church with a handful of civilian and military personnel because there was no suitable worship services at the time. The church flourished under her guidance and with the help of U. S. Army Chaplain (Capt.) Rev. Dr. Leland Leblanc. She is also a member of several Prince Hall Affiliated Masonic organizations: a charter member of the Daughters of Isis Al Azhar Court #181, where she served as Illustrious Commandress. She also served on the Imperial Council of the Daughters of Isis as the Imperial Deputy of the Egyptian Parade Stars, Order of the Eastern Star Mizpah Chapter #37, Esther #160 and The Golden Circle.

She is cherished by her devoted husband of 55 years, Freeman Holifield, Sr.; two children, Dr. Quintaniay Holifield of Baltimore, Maryland and a son, Colonel Freeman Holifield, Jr., USAF and his wife, Lorrie of Fairfax, Virginia and a beloved grandson, Freeman (Trey) Holifield, III.

# 5 Ways to Treat Mom to a Special Mother's Day

(BPT) - Mothers are always busy working hard for their families. Especially in the past year, being a mom has taken on new meaning. In addition to her normal role, she's now an educator, a nurse, an information technology (IT) specialist, a sanitation expert and much more. Because moms are working so

hard, Mother's Day offers the opportunity to give them a break and show how much she means to you.

This Mother's Day, your family can go beyond the breakfast in bed to really make her feel special. Here are five ways to show Mom you care:

### Convey Gratitude

Make sure Mom knows how much you appreciate her by conveying your gratitude in a special way. This could be as simple as writing a heartfelt letter. Another option is making a gratitude jar, where everyone in the family can add a note to share why they are thankful for Mom.

For fun Mother's Day décor, these notes could be written on longer strips of paper and taped into circles to create a chain of gratitude. No matter what you choose, showing gratitude for all that Mom does is sure to make her feel appreciated on her special day.

### Plan a Friends' Night Out

Research shows satisfying



friendships are connected to mothers' well-being and sense of self, so consider planning an evening when she can go out with the gals and enjoy some time away from the house.

To celebrate mothers everywhere, this Mother's Day DOVE® Chocolate is privately renting out select movie theaters across the country exclusively for Mom and her friends to enjoy a COVID-safe evening all her own.

Tickets became available on Tuesday, April 27, at 9 a.m. EST. Only one entrant per theater is eligible to register. Upon registration, the winner will receive the additional movie tickets to share with friends for the rented-out theater at the designated showtime on the evening of Mother's Day on May 9. Learn more at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dove-chocolate-mothers-night-tickets-150646296127>.

### Do the Dirty Work

Want to lighten Mom's load and make her smile? Household chores are time consuming, and even though

they should be evenly split by the family, the bulk of these often land on mothers' to-do lists. While she's out with friends, bust out the cleaning supplies. Pick up clutter, organize toys, do the dishes, dust and wipe down windows. If there is a chore she particularly despises, show you care by getting it done.

When she comes home to a clean house, she'll be surprised and delighted.

### Give Flower Bouquet Alternatives

A bouquet of fresh flowers is a timeless gift for Mom, but you can surprise her with an interesting twist on a classic. Flowers made out of fabric or wood are trending because they are unique, customizable and never wilt, and can be displayed proudly as part of her home décor.

If you have kids, you can create these on your own. Get colorful cardstock to trace their hands and cut out to create flowers you can adhere to craft sticks. If you prefer live flowers, you can give her long-lasting blooms by opting for a potted plant instead of a cut bouquet. This allows her to enjoy the blooms indoors or replant outdoors, depending on the variety.

Many moms' selflessness is unparalleled, so consider giving yours something as sweet as she is.

# Assistance Still Available for Renters Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic

(BPT) - Millions of people still find themselves confronting financial hardship and uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For those finding it challenging to keep up with timely rental payments, resources and relief options are available including financial counseling, help communicating with landlords, state and local tenant protections, and even emergency rental assistance.

To help renters navigate these resources, Fannie Mae - a leading provider of home loan and multifamily housing financing - provides real-time information at KnowYourOptions.com.

"We want to ensure anyone struggling to pay their rent understands their options," said Michele Evans, Executive Vice President and Head of Multifamily, Fannie Mae. "A number of protections are in place for renters, and financial support is available."

**Funds for rental assistance.** At KnowYourOptions.com, renters can

access information on a number of topics, including information on state and local assistance programs.

"Even if you checked last year and weren't able to find help, now is a good time to explore these programs again," according to Evans. "The American Rescue Plan Act recently allocated



approximately \$22 billion in emergency rental assistance for eligible renters to cover rent, missed rent payments, utilities, home energy costs and other housing-related expenses." This is in addition to \$25 billion in federal assistance passed in December 2020, which state and local governments are responsible for distributing.

**Personalized help for renters who need it.** For those who need additional help, KnowYourOptions.com provides access to the Renters Resource Finder,

which will identify if you live in a building that is financed by Fannie Mae. Those who do can access U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-approved counselors at the Disaster Response Network. Counselors can provide:

- \* Free financial assistance to create an action plan and receive budgeting support and coaching from experts.

- \* Guidance on a variety of relief options, including unemployment benefits, nutritional assistance and other programs.

- \* Explanation of available federal rental assistance options that are available at the state and local level and help managing the application processes.

- \* Nonlegal support communicating with landlords to help reach a mutual understanding.

In addition to resources for renters, property owners with a building financed by Fannie Mae may be eligible for forbearance, which temporarily suspends or reduces their mortgage payment until the hardship

is over. By taking advantage of this option, the property owner agrees to provide payment flexibility to their renters who may be experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

The multifamily COVID-19 forbearance program requires property owners with a forbearance plan related to the pandemic

to suspend all evictions for renters unable to pay rent during the forbearance period. A property owner participating in the program also must allow tenants flexibility to repay back rent over time and not in a lump sum; and not charge late fees or penalties for non-payment of rent.

"As COVID-19 persists,

Fannie Mae remains steadfast in our commitment to helping renters stay in their homes," said Evans. "We encourage renters facing financial challenges to visit KnowYourOptions.com to find reliable information and resources on rental relief options that are available nationwide."

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