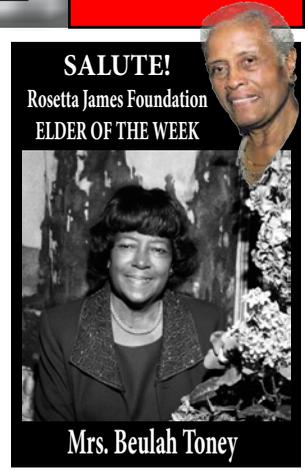


A Tribute to Marion Anderson Draper - p. 2

FREE

"100 Black Men" Golf! - p. 7

Friday
August 12, 2022
Vol. 8, No. 49
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



"Look for me in the whirlwind or the storm." - Marcus Garvey



PAAC! Alabama A&M University President Daniel K. Wims (2nd, left) held the first meeting of his President's Alumni Advisory Council (PAAC) on Friday, August 5. From (l-r) A. Jackie Robinson (assistant to the president); Ronald McIntosh, Dorothy Brice, Sandra Stubbs (Alumni Affairs director), Sarah Hrobowski, Melissa Presnell, Alice Sams, Sandra Lyles-Jackson, Henrika Buchanan, Julian Green, Jamal Ali (VP, Marketing, Communication and Advancement), Jermaine Ralph and Dr. Roderick DeWayne Watts (trustee). Online: Karla Baker, SanYvette Williams-Foy and Alex Okeke. Photo by J. Saintjones

Citizens Urged to Take Part in 'Green' Survey

Your Voice Matters!
Green Team is asking Huntsvillians to participate in a city-wide survey by August 31.

Hearing citizens' thoughts and understanding their perspectives will help develop more impactful ways to prevent and mitigate litter in this area, while creating sustainable programs



and initiatives to keep Huntsville clean and green. Having a clean city ben-

efits citizens, businesses and the environment. Participation in a brief survey is greatly appreciated and will help the City of Huntsville better serve citizens with initiatives that are designed to be environmentally sustainable. Thank you for making your voice heard! Tap SURVEY LINK

Update on Huntsville's BIG Picture: The Study, Vision & Plan

Nearly five years ago, Huntsville was finalizing its first comprehensive plan in at least four decades. It was the product of years of study, analysis and – most importantly – public engagement, and it represented the shared vision for the future of Huntsville.

Formally adopted in 2018, the plan – known as The BIG Picture – mapped out a series of strategies for growth that would allow our community to bring in new industry, attractions and residents without losing the character that

makes Huntsville unique. Once a plan is adopted, however, the real work begins.

There are two very important tasks that must occur if the plan is going to be successful: implementation and assessment.

City-led projects like the Johnson Legacy Center, Dr. Robert Shurney Legacy Center, Sandra Moon Community Complex, and Butler Green breathed new life into old sites. Developers embraced the trend as well, with projects like Campus No. 805, Stove-

house and MidCity taking aging or obsolete properties and creating new activity centers in their place. And more projects are on the horizon, in almost every corner of Huntsville.

In supporting this new development, it was vital that we ensure our transportation network was keeping up. As mentioned in the plan, there are three aspects of a high-functioning, sustainable transportation network: varied uses, routes and modes.

Another important goal was the continued

economic diversification of the region. Early on, we identified gaps in metro wage growth, particularly in the middle third of the wage scale. In response, Huntsville aggressively pursued industries like Mazda Toyota Manufacturing, Meta/Facebook and Amazon, which could provide good-paying jobs that didn't necessarily require an advanced degree.

Another concern, on both the national and regional stages, is affordability, specifically in terms of housing. The City con-

tinues to support development and redevelopment to help answer that demand, and the Planning Department has reviewed zoning

codes to identify ways developers can provide more diverse and accessible housing products.

Visit BigPictureHuntsville.com.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

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- tim allston: Perspectives, Page 5
- Rev. Michael Rice: Called 2 Preach, Page 6
- Spotlight on Our Elders, Page 7

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A Tribute to Evangelist Marion Anderson Draper

... FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends of The Valley Weekly:

I wanted to take this time to pay special tribute to a dear friend and former colleague of mine from my

Alabama. She married Jesse Lee Draper on April 20, 1981, and three children were born into this union. She also embraced four loving stepchildren.

Marion was passionate

and was purpose-driven. Marion served in numerous capacities in the Huntsville District and Alabama First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.

Marion loved her family. She was preceded in death by her loving parents, her brother, Alfred Earl Anderson, and her sister, Barbara K. Whitehead.

Marion was reared in a God-fearing home. As a child, she was a member of Union Missionary Baptist Church where Reverend J. H. Hale was pastor. While attending college, she became a member of True Light Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Pastor Terrell Harris, Jr. After she married, she became a member of Beirne Avenue (now Draper Memorial) Church of God in Christ during the pastorate of Superintendent Dave Draper, Sr.

During that time, the Lord spoke to her husband to start a ministry. In October 1998,

the Right Way Church of God in Christ was established. Marion did not take that role of First Lady lightly. She walked by her husband's side tirelessly. As First Lady, she embraced ministry to women with devotion and excellence.

She was also a graduate of the C. H. Mason School of Ministries. The power and presence of the Holy Spirit were evident in First Lady Draper's life. She understood her calling

and was purpose-driven. Marion served in numerous capacities in the Huntsville District and Alabama First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.

Marion loved her family. She was preceded in death by her loving parents, her brother, Alfred Earl Anderson, and her sister, Barbara K. Whitehead.



She will be sorely missed.
Until next time ...

Dorothy

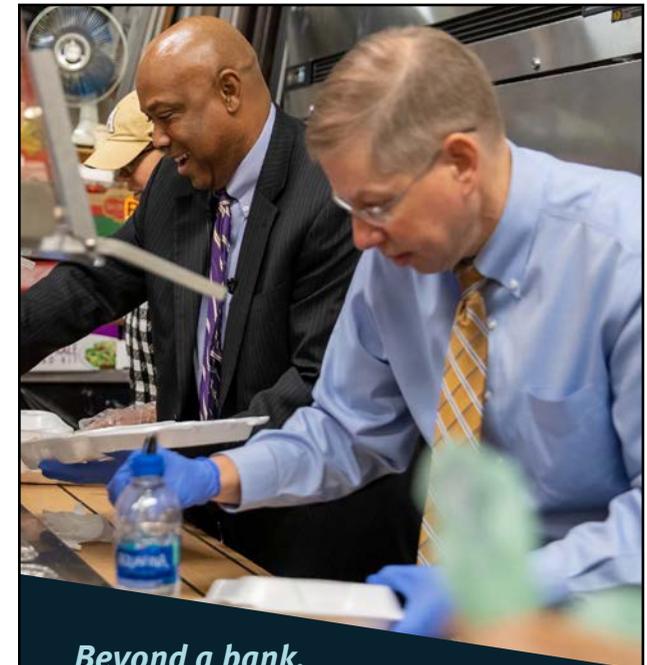


days as an administrator at Alabama A&M University.

Evangelist Marion Anderson Draper was a dear sweet soul, with a love for her Creator, mankind and family.

Marion was born on August 25, 1958, to the late Eddie Lee and Mary Etta Cox Anderson. She departed this life on July 26, 2022, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in the presence of family. She is a native of Bay Minette,

about learning and helping others to pursue their educational goals. She graduated from the Baldwin County High School in 1976. She attended the Alabama A&M University (AAMU) and graduated with a degree in special education and a concentration in speech and language pathology. Marion retired from AAMU after 24 years of service as an administrative assistant in the Office of Research and Sponsored



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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. JEROME M. BANKS, JR. (b. 1976) was held Wednesday, August 10, at Valley View Memorial Gardens.

Funeral service for MR. JOHN HENRY "DOC" BONE (b. 1943) was held Sunday, August 7, at Eagles' Nest Ministries with Minister Shannon B. Talley, eulogist, and Elder Jerry Crutcher, officiant.

Funeral service for MR. DARRIUS T. KING (b. 1997) was held Sunday, August 7, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Graveside service for MR. TYRONE "BUD" SMITH will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, August 11, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.) with Pastor Endia J. Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for MR. HENRY JAMES MORRIS (b. 1934) was held Wednesday, August 10, at the Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church (1919 Brandontown Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Deon Watkins officiating.

Funeral service for MR. HOWARD DONNELL EMERSON (b. 1940) was held Tuesday, August 9, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Reverend Kelvin Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MS. TIFFANI DANIELLE COLE (b. 1987) was held Sunday, August 7, at the Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church (2115 Winchester Rd NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery officiating.

Funeral service for MR. ANTHONY FLETCHER (b. 1952) was held Saturday, August 6, at the Big Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church (133 Maple Street Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Jeffery Jefferson officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. ELIZABETH RICE HALL (b. 1952) was held Saturday, August 6, at the First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MR. JULIO CESAR FELIZ PENA was held Thursday, August 4, at Serenity Funeral Home.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**ALL FOR
THE FAMILY**
Spotlighting Baby Boomers

I am one of the 76 million baby boomers (BBs) in the U.S. Baby boomers were born between 1946 and 1964. We were born during the prosperous years following World War II (WWII), when soldiers were returning home.

The name BB was ascribed to this generation because of the sharp rise in birth rates after WWII. During this period, the record was broken for the highest number of births in a calendar year ever, in

U.S. history.

Now, BBs are facing financial, health and economic challenges. Most pressing are saving enough for retirement and caring for elderly parents and relatives.

Surprising Facts:

- Second to the millennials, baby boomers are the largest generation in the U.S.
- Ninety percent are married.
- They support their
- The largest population (20 percent) live in New York, and many are migrating to Las Vegas, Florida and Arizona.
- Tend to be more self-

children in and out of the nest.

- Live longer and retire later than previous generations.
- Hepatitis is a silent epidemic among them.
- Have the highest rate of home ownership in the country.
- Are highly educated.
- Are the wealthiest, most active and have the most disposable income for food, apparel and retirement programs.
- The past four U.S. presidents were baby boomers.



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

disciplined, obedient, strong ethics, team oriented, organized and dependable than younger generations

Sources:

managementisajourney.com
PEW Research
senioradvisor.com

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**CHAMPION
GAME PLAN**
PRESTON BROWN

LEARNING HOW TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

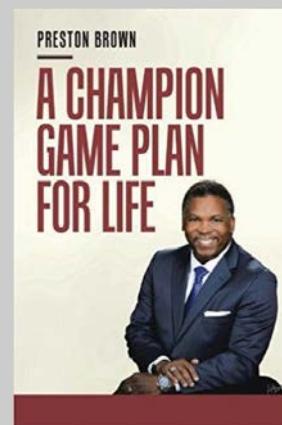
1 Corinthians 13:6-7 says, "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

You know, when we look at this scripture, the apostle Paul has a perfect description of how love should be.

In this scripture you can't help but notice how simple it is to understand how to love.

For example, we all

know what is being asked of us but the problem is the willingness to do what



it says. You see, when you love someone, your intentions should never be

meant to harm them. So, there is no need to worry about offending someone, because Love creates an atmosphere of agreement. Even when we agree to disagree, this is having an attitude of love.

1 John 4:7 says, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God."

1 John 4:8 goes on to say, "whoever does not love does not know God because God is love."

You see, love prefers to be overly generous rather than overly suspicious.

Some people are very suspicious because they never learn how to love anybody. What a miserable place to be.

When we don't love people, we allow the enemy to get a "foot hole" in our lives, and that will take away our joy and our peace, because we are constantly complaining about



them.

So, let us all learn ways to build each other up and not bring each other down with our words or our actions, because love does not dishonor others ...

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

And, make sure you purchase your copy of my book, "A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE" on amazon.com.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

August 12

Summer Ghost Hunt at
Huntsville's Historic Lowry
House
1205 Kildare Street
Huntsville, Ala.
(205) 305-5098
7-10:30 p.m.

August 13

The Valley Arts Festival
The Camp
5909 University Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
1-11 p.m.

September 17

Football vs. Austin Peay
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
2 p.m.

October 1

Bulldog Football vs.
Bethune-Cookman Uni-
versity
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
2 p.m.

October 4

Concert
Earth, Wind & Fire
Orion Amphitheater
www.axs.com

October 8

Bulldog Football vs. Gram-
bling State University
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
1 p.m.

November 12

Gulf Coast Challenge
AAMU vs. Jackson State
University
Ladd-Peebles Stadium
Mobile, Ala.

November 19

Bulldog Football vs.
Texas Southern University
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
1 p.m.

**Alabama A&M University
Bulldog Football 2022**

Sept. 1	at UAB	B'ham	7PM
Sept. 10	at Troy	Vet	6PM
Sept. 17	vs. AUSTIN PEAY		2PM
Sept. 24	at FAMU		5PM
Oct. 1	HOMECOMING (vs. Bethune-Cookman) 2PM		
Oct. 8	vs. Grambling 1PM		
Oct. 16	at UAPB (St. Louis) 3PM		
Oct. 29	River City Classic vs. Alabama State Magic City Classic 2:30PM		
Nov. 3	at MVSU 6:30PM		
Nov. 12	vs. Jackson State Gulf Coast Challenge Mobile, Ala. TBA		
Nov. 19	vs. Texas Southern 1PM		
Dec. 3	SWAC Championship		

COVID-19 Assistance

UNITED WAY COVID-19

Assistance Fund
Donate:
www.uwmadison-
county.org
Get Assistance: Call 211

SMALL BUSINESSES

disastercustomerservice@sba.gov
(800) 659-2955

**COVID-19-RELATED
UNEMPLOYMENT**

Alabama Department
of Labor
(866) 234-5382
labor.alabama.gov

**MADISON COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
(256) 539-3711

**LATEST COVID-19
INFORMATION**

Alabama Department of Public
Health
www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention
cdc.gov

**TAKEOUT/DELIVERY
RESTAURANTS**

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

PowerShot

"Your roots run
deep, past the
traumas, to the
source of your
origin.
You are always
connected to
the source of
your healing."

J.T. Moore



*"As a culture worker who belongs to an oppressed people my job is
to make revolution irresistible."*

- Toni Cade Bambara

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Public Notice: Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Meetings

The **Citizens Advisory Committee** of the **Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization** will meet **Monday, August 15, 2022** at 5:00 p.m. The **Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board** meets on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 4:00 pm. All meetings are held on the 1st floor of COH City Hall located at 308 Fountain Circle, unless otherwise noted on the Huntsville-Area MPO website at www.huntsvillempo.org. To review items on the agenda for 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/>



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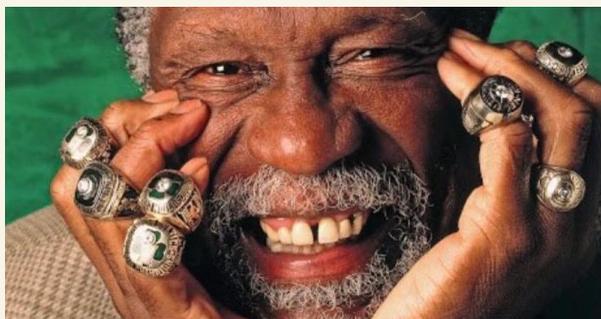


*No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is
greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.*



Remembering Bill Russell: Beyond GOAT-ness, and up to . .

"The race is not given to the swift or to the strong but to the one who endures to the end..." - Ecclesiastes 9:11.



Forget Michael Jordan, LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, and even Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and those endless arguments about basketball's GOAT (Greatest Of All Time).

If the object of competitive team sports is winning, then the greatest team winner should be crowned the GOAT.

Enter William Felton "Bill" Russell, Sr. (1934-July 31, 2022): From GOAT to GREATS

More than mere basketball GOAT-ness, Russell possessed the G-R-E-A-T-S (Greatest Resume Ever in American Team Sports) in categories matching his Boston Celtics #6:

- 1) Winner of 11 championships in 13 years (1956-69);
- 2) Championship winner at high school, college, Olympic, and professional basketball;
- 3) First Black coach in American team sports (1966);
- 4) First Black Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee as a player (1975) and later as a coach (2021);
- 5) Declared "the original GOAT" by the Professional Basketball Writers of America (1980); and
- 6) Presidential Medal of Freedom awardee honoring both basketball prowess and civil rights activism (2011).

For example, Russell led a 1961 Black Celtics' boycott against a Lexington, KY restaurant that refused them service; joined Dr. King at the 1963 March on Washington, protested Boston's segregated public schools in the 1960s; and knelt with NFL players like Colin Kaepernick during the national anthem decrying police brutality in 2017.

Are you aspiring to be great? Then follow Bill Russell's example from King Solomon's above Ecclesiastes text: it's not the speed or strength of your tongue, talents, or treasures, but your marathon-like endurance that wins in the end.



This is excerpted from tim allston's upcoming 4-in-1 book, *2023 Pro Basketball: The Home Court Advantage for Champion "Leaders from the Middle,"* scheduled for October 2022.

AAMU Will Welcome Team from Colombia

With the grant award of the 100K Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund a few months ago and the tremendous administrative support from three institutions (Alabama A&M University, USA; Universidad de La Sabana, Colombia; and UNIMINUTO, Colombia), a one-year project—"From Intention to Action: Entrepreneurship and Innovation Initiative to support SMEs in the U.S. and Colombia"—was launched successfully for academic year 2021-2022.

After participating in interactive virtual workshops, where the students from the three institutions proposed innovative solutions to challenges launched by companies in the U.S. and Colombia, the winning teams from the two countries finally met each other.

In early June 2022, three students from AAMU (Akhia Floyd, Trinity Poplar and Isaiah Thompson) travelled to Colombia for a unique transformative journey of international innovation, cultural enrichment and entertainment. Students were accompanied by Dr. Xia Zhang, coordinator of International Programs at AAMU's College of Business and Public Affairs, and Dr. Valentina Iscaro, assistant professor and entrepreneurship program coordinator.

The group spent the first part of the week in Bogota--'The Fridge'. The AAMU 100K Strong team met students, faculty and administrators of the University UNIMINUTO. Led by Camilo Velásquez Rodríguez, vice director



of accommodation and incubation of the Social Innovation Science Park, the 100K Strong team met with Carlos Vasquez H., head of international relations of UNIMINUTO, and with President Diego Jaramillo. Dr. Jaramillo, the 90-year-old president and priest, discussed the history of UNIMINUTO and the innovative impact priests and students have had. The team also visited the University Museum of Modern Art and the Social Innovation Center at UNIMINUTO, where students and faculty work together to find innovative solutions to the social problem affecting Colombia.

During the weekend of the stay, the 100K Strong team moved to the Tocaima region, visiting the Agropark, owned by UNIMINUTO and created from the vision of the Professor Hector Lopez. The 100K Strong team toured several museums, including the Communications Museum, which is dedicated to the radio, a medium that played a vital role in Colombia; then the Rochereau Museum, Tradition Museum, Archeological New Hope Museum, and the Coffee House Museum. AAMU participants learned about the impres-

sive history of Colombian printing, radios, and high priests. study halls, and more. The entrepreneurial activity in the 3D printing room encouraged the students to imagine that anything is possible and all ideas are important.

The one-week trip in Colombia was short; however, the warmest welcome and the kind hospitality impressed member of the AAMU 100K Strong team. The AAMU 100K Strong team had the great opportunity to meet the administrators of international relations of LASABANA to discuss the potential collaboration opportunities for ultimately win-win benefits for the faculty and students at AAMU and LA SABANA. Reflecting the transformative journey in Colombia, South America, the AAMU team's global vision is enlarged with the exposure to the rich history, the unique business settings, and the creative mindset of the Colombian business leaders, and the Colombian faculty and students.

From August 20-26, 2022, the Alabama A&M team will cordially welcome the Colombian 100K Strong team for the north mobility program in Huntsville, Alabama—"Sweet Home Alabama." In Huntsville the 100K Strong team will live an intense week of workshops, meetings, business site visits and cultural activities. The ultimate goal for 100K Strong Award Program is to sustain the collaboration for a long-term partnership between AAMU, UNIMINUTO, and LA SABANA.

sive history of Colombian printing, radios, and high priests.

An awesome learning challenge, however, was learning to salsa dance after the agricultural tour. The team learned more about the incredibly rich Colombian vegetation and saw and tasted several varieties of fruit.

After the weekend at the Agropark, 100K Strong team moved to Chia, home of the Universidad de La Sabana (LA SABANA). They were welcomed by Ricardo Sotaquirá-Gutiérrez, associate professor at the College of Engineering, and Angela Patricia Jimenez Gomez, manager of internationalization at Engineering School. Under their leadership, 100K Strong team students and faculty participated in several workshops to learn about the entrepreneurial ecosystem of Colombia and to observe how the university sustains entrepreneurial mindsets and endeavors through their Living Lab--the pioneering engineering program. The LA SABANA colleagues guided conducted a tour of the LA SABANA campus, dining centers inspired by the gastronomic center, the engineering labs, sports sectors, university library,

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CALLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

Command and Compliance

In the story of the ten lepers, there are two responses that teach a very valuable lesson.

First, there is the response of Jesus to the request for mercy by the ten lepers. The law separated them from society both spiritually and socially.

However, their voices carried them into the presence of Jesus as they cried out for mercy. Jesus' command to them was,



“Go show yourselves to the priests.” This was His way of allowing the lepers to participate in their own deliverance from their disease.

The lepers responded with compliance to Jesus' command and as they went they were healed. They responded in faith, and it was that act of obedience that put them in the flow of the stream of power that went forth from the lips of Jesus and they were healed. Note how the command of Jesus involved the “showing” of themselves.

In other words, the change had to be visible and verified. Such is still the mandate for the believer when it comes to our witness to both believers



and unbelievers.

Whether we intend to or not, we are always showing ourselves. The verifiability of change can only be known by what others see.

Verbal proclamations of change without visible proof is useless; and change will not take place without compliance to the commands of Jesus.

Gratitude must always follow the recognition and reception of every act of mercy extended to us, even if we're the only one to do so.



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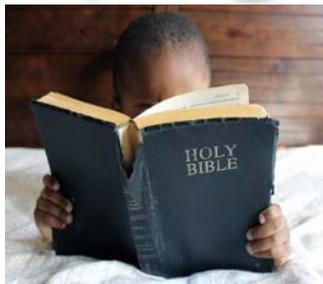
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This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, August 14, 2022

Tenth Sunday

After Pentecost

(Track 2 - Year C)

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

Psalms 82

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

Mrs. Beulah Toney

Mrs. Beulah Ballard Toney was born in Limestone County, Ala., and is a graduate of Trinity High School and attended Alabama A&M University. Through the years, she has faithfully--and with honor, integrity and great distinction--worked quietly away at making communities better places to live, often with little recognition and no pay. She has made substantial efforts toward achieving the ambitions and goals of our community as an unsung hero.

Toney continues to be very active in the community as founding member of the Bo Matthews Center for Excellence; co-founder of the Beulah Ballard Toney Scholarship; board member of the Meadow Hills Initiative; and board member, Community Action Partnership.

In addition to her current work, she has led and participated in numerous organizations over the past 40 years: past chairperson of the Madison County Board of Registrars; past chairperson of the 5th Congressional District of New South Coalition; founding board member of



the Coalition On At-Risk Minority Males; member, Fun Set Social and Charity Club (organizers of the Annual Beautillion Ball); past president of the Charity Floral Club; past leader for Girl Scouts of America, Inc.; past coach for Youth Softball and Basketball Leagues; and many others.

Even though she

has had many public accomplishments, her three daughters--Cheryl Edwards (Ralph), Wlyne McCrary (Don) and Sylvia Fitts (Seatreion) and two granddaughters--Kenya McCrary and Sydney Edwards--are her pride and joy.

"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.

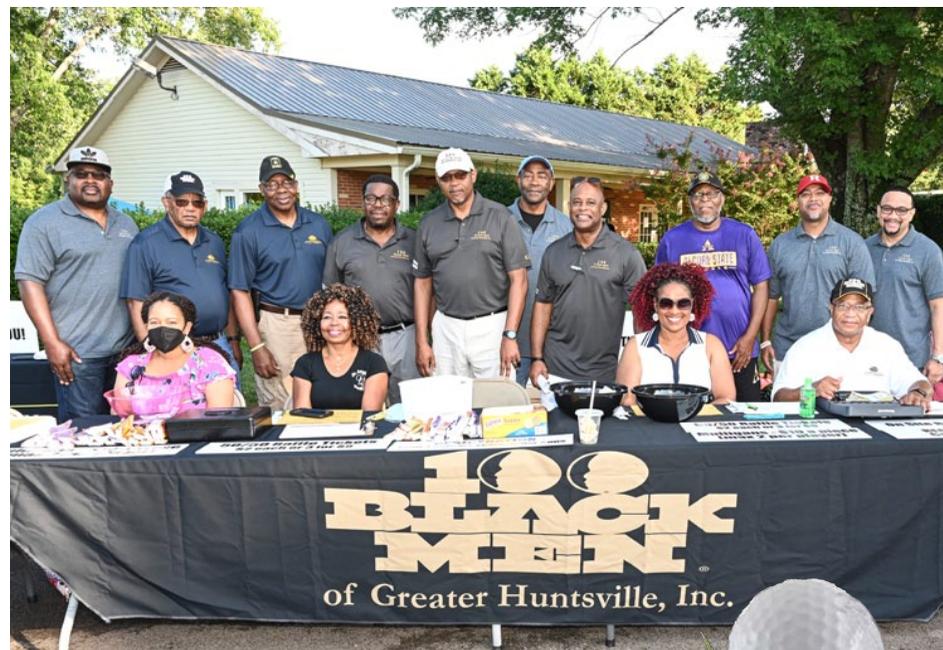
The 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville, Inc.

21st Annual John Riche Memorial Golf Classic

Colonial Golf Classic - Meridianville, Ala.

Saturday, August 6, 2022

The 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville, Inc., hosted its 21st Annual John Riche Memorial Golf Classic on Saturday, August 6, 2022 at Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville, AL. The John Riche Memorial Golf Classic raises funding to support our Men of Tomorrow (MOT) Mentoring Program and Educational Scholarships. Scholarships are awarded annually to area youth.





Budget Help for Older Adults

(BPT) - Food and gas prices continue to rise, on top of record-high housing costs in many cities across the U.S. If you're an older adult who is already living on a tight budget, today's inflation can be particularly difficult. Fortunately, there are programs available that can help you save money on health care, prescriptions, food, utilities and more.

One of the easiest ways to find out if you're eligible for benefits is to visit the National Council on Aging's Benefits-CheckUp.org. The free and confidential tool connects older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers to benefit programs. The site is easy to use, even for people with minimal digital experience.

"It only takes a few minutes to learn about all the programs available and how to apply," said Ramsey Alwin,

president and CEO of NCOA. "For example, there are Medicare programs that can boost your budget by helping with prescription drug costs, as well as premiums, deductibles and coinsurance."

There are thousands of programs on BenefitsCheckUp, including:

* *The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which can help you pay for healthy food*

* *The Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy and Medicare Savings Programs, which can help people with Medicare afford their out-of-pocket health care expenses*

* *The Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing Programs, which can help with housing costs*

* *Supplemental Security Income, which provides cash for basic needs*

* *The Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides discounted internet services*
 * *The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which can help you pay for home heating and cooling*

Millions of older adults are eligible for, but not enrolled in these programs. In fact, NCOA estimates that \$30 billion in benefits go unused each year simply because older adults don't know about these programs - or how to apply.

BenefitsCheckUp.org will give you a personalized list of benefits you may be eligible for and the steps you need to apply, including links to the correct government agencies and applications. Just a few minutes could save you money every month.

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