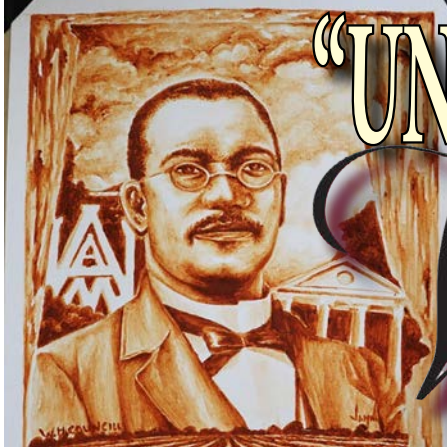


ALLSTON: Revisiting "A Soulful Celebration" - p. 5

FREE



"UNBROKEN PARADOX" - p. 2

Friday
December 6, 2024
Vol. 11, No. 14
ValleyWeekllyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Charles E. Briggs, Sr.

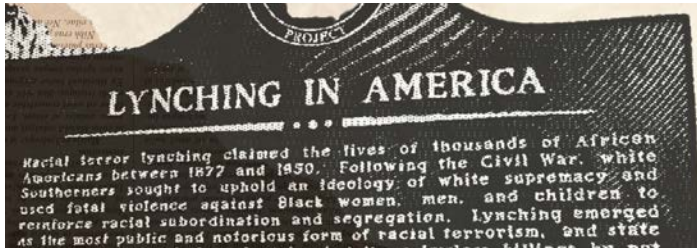
The Valley Weekly

"If you don't know where you come from, then you won't know when you're being taken back." - Joseph Lowery

Marker to Commemorate Victims of Area Lynchings

The Madison County Remembrance Project (MCRP) invites the public to "a significant event" on Saturday, December 7, at 2 p.m. at 5905 Higdon Road NE (District No. 17 Masonic Center), Huntsville, Ala.

MCRP members have collected soil for eight of the 10 documented lynching victims in



Madison County, and the organization will honor their lives and stories.

MCRP will dedicate Madison County's first racial terror lynching historical marker,

commemorating the life of Mr. Robert Mosley, who was lynched near this site on March 21, 1890.

This ceremony, held in partnership with District No. 17

Masonic Center and the Equal Justice Initiative, will honor his memory, confront this painful chapter of history, and reaffirm the community's commitment to justice

and unity.

According to organizers, the event will take place, rain or shine, with cancellation only in case of severe weather.

For additional information and to confirm attendance at the outdoor event, contact Amy Jackson, United Women of Color, at (256) 384-4933.

4-H Midwinter Teen Retreat Set for January 2025

"Saddle up for Success: Taking the Reins of Leadership," a three-day 4-H Midwinter Teen Retreat, will be held January 31-February 2 at the Alabama 4-H Center.

Registration (\$150) is open through January 7 at 4HOnline.V2.4HONLINE.com. The fee includes lodging, meals, a Midwinter t-shirt and supplies.

The event, designed for senior level 4-H members (ages 14-18 by January 1), is sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, coordinated by Alabama A&M University and Auburn University.



A&M Student Attending HBS Event

Bryson Hannah is 1 of 5 students nationwide



selected to attend the 52nd Annual H. Naylor Fitzhugh Conference at Harvard University. The junior mechanical engineering major will explore business insights, network with professionals, and gain a deeper understanding of the Harvard Business School.

New TARCOG Facility in the Works

A vacant one-acre lot of Alabama red clay on Corporate Drive in the Mid City District will transform over the next year to feature a new 25,000 square foot office building for TARCOG.

"We are very excited to have reached this point," said Executive Director Michelle Jordan. "It's taken nearly two years of



thoughtful planning, but we believe the building plan is perfect for our needs now and into the future."

Architect Les Tillery, principal with Fuqua Architects, said the modern two-story building will be constructed

of structural steel, brick and metal siding.

"We have been working in harmony with the design

guidelines and standards at Mid City to complement the aesthetic standards set by them," Les said.

Once started, construction should take a year to complete. TARCOG's new building will be built across the street from the Dynetics Mid City Campus at 4991 Corporate Drive NW.

The Valley Weekly

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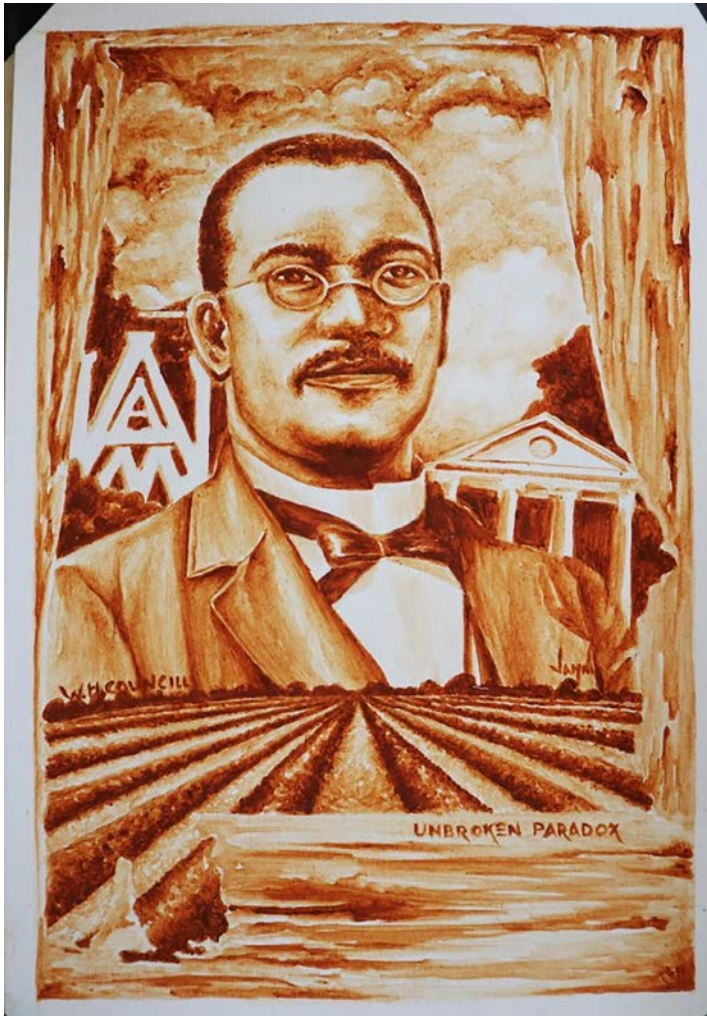
Honoring Our Elders, Page 7

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Notes of a Native Son: **UNBROKEN PARADOX**

- by afroblastik (John 'Jahni' Moore)

I am taking a departure from my normal and sharing a work of visual art. “Unbroken Paradox” honors the extraordinary life of William Hooper Councill, a former enslaved man among men who rose from the red dust of Alabama to become the founder and first president of what is now Alabama A&M University. This work, created with red clay taken from the grounds of his enslavement and the university he built, embodies the profound duality of



his journey—pain and triumph, oppression and liberation, roots and ascension.

I was told by a professor while an undergrad at Alabama A&M

University that “Your success is inevitable because this Alabama Red Clay is rich with the blood of your ancestors.” Those words transformed me from a witness to a man on and in purpose. The red clay is more than a medium; it is history itself, rich with the essence of the land that bore witness to Councill’s transformation. From the soil of hardship grew a legacy of

excellence, a paradox of unbroken spirit in the face of unimaginable adversity. This work connects past struggles to present victories, serving as a timeless reminder that greatness can emerge from even the harshest conditions.

“Unbroken Paradox” is a piece of history that celebrates the resilience, vision, and courage of one

of Alabama’s greatest pioneers. It’s a testament to the power of education to uplift and transform lives, just as Councill did for countless others. This work is charged with the “blood” of our ancestors. “Unbroken Paradox” is not merely a painting; it is a legacy, a story of perseverance, and a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.



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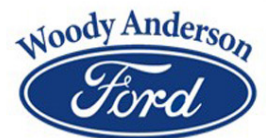


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The Valley Weekly

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Half Page	Horizontal	
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Eighth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

Ahh, December!

For many, this month signals a time of reflection and direction—a moment to look back on the year that has passed and set plans for the year ahead. It feels like only yesterday we were ringing in January 2024, preparing for spring festivities, summer vacations, and the busy days of fall. Now, here we are in December, with the year almost behind us.

As the days grow shorter, we often realize that some goals remain unfinished. But December gives us one last chance to roll up our sleeves, put in the effort, and cross items off our to-do lists. After all, success is often a “do-it-yourself” project. Whether it’s reconnecting with a loved one, mending relationships, or tackling larger ambitions like pursuing education, career advancement, or personal growth, this is the time to act.

For students, December is synonymous with final exams—a critical moment to



close out the semester strong. For professionals, it’s a time to wrap up projects, deliver results, and set goals for the next quarter. For families, it’s about gathering together, cherishing traditions, and perhaps even creating new ones. Regardless of what December means to you, one thing is certain: we all know what needs to be done to finish the year on a high note.

Of course, for some, the holidays bring more stress than joy. The commercialization of the season—Black Friday sales that now run for months rather than days and the endless cycle of sales—can overshadow the simple joys of giving and togetherness. For many families, especially those earning minimum wage, the financial strain of everyday life can make holiday cheer feel out of reach. This reality underscores the importance of education and opportunity.

As we look to the future, investing in education—whether vocational training, certification programs, or degrees—remains one of the best ways to empower individuals and communities. While education may not be the ultimate equalizer, it is a vital step toward creating a brighter future for all. For me, my mother’s hope and an almost endless education journey during my early years have made the difference!

So, as we enjoy this season’s parties, galas, gatherings, and festive meals, let’s also take a moment to reflect, plan, and look forward. Let’s remember the reason for the season and the power of hope, gratitude, and community.

Until next week, happy holidays—and may your December be a season of meaningful reflection and purposeful action.

Dorothy

Image: DALL-E/Saintjones

DECEMBER 6 - MELI'SA MORGAN - Joyce Melissa Morgan (usually spelled Meli'sa; born December 6, 1964) is an American R&B/Soul songwriter. Morgan had a string of urban contemporary hits from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. Most notable include her cover version of Prince's "Do Me, Baby" (1985), "Do You Still Love Me" (1986) and "Still in Love with You" (1992). New material by Meli'sa Morgan can be heard on a German release by Cool Million, which features Meli'sa Morgan on lead vocals on the opening track "Sweet Baby." In 2014, Morgan was honored with an Unsung Heroine Award by the National R&B Music Society at Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, NJ. Morgan was featured on an episode of TVOne's Unsung aired in 2015.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**VALLEY
DEATHS**



SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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Funeral services for **BABY LAIDEN FULLOVE** (b. 2024) and **BABY RILEY ORANGE CUFFEE** (b. 2024) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MR. NORTHLESS BROOKS, JR.** (b. 1951) will be Saturday, December 7, at the Serenity Funeral Home Chapel at 11 a.m.

Funeral service for **MS. LOUISE WOODS** (b. 1943) will be Friday, December 6, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church, 1919 Brandontown Road NW, Huntsville, Ala., at 12 noon.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW

Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral service for **MS. DESIREE HAMMONDS** (b. 1944) and **MRS. MARY MORRIS LESLIE** (b. 1952) will be announced at a later date.

Memorial service for **MRS. ERICA D. PRESSEY** (b. 1974) was Tuesday, December 3, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MR. ANTHONY LAVERN LANIER** (b. 1961) was Sunday, December 1, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MR. DONNY R. WRIGHT** (b. 1954) was Sunday, December 1, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Harvest, Ala.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW

Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481 - www.royalfh.com

Funeral services for **MR. NELSON L. GORDON** (b. 1946) and **MR. ISAIAH CRUTCHER, JR.** (b. 1969) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MRS. PROMISE CHARMAINE SHORTER FORD** (b. 1976) will be 1 p.m. Sunday, December 8, at the New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3912 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala., with Bishop Esley B. Simmons and Dr. Isacc Olatunji officiating

Valley Weekly
**Spiritual
Game Plan**
PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:
"After the Storm"

Mark 4:39 says, "Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and was completely calm."

No one really crosses over to the promise that God has for his or her life without going through some kind of storm. No one really grows or matures spiritually without some kind of conflict. It seems that the closest you get to your breakthrough, the more the devil tries to throw your way. It may come in the form of a tragedy. It may come in the form of discouragement, especially if you feel like you have done everything that you can do.

In Mark 4:35, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go to the other side." If Jesus says for us to go, we should have the blessed assurance that we are going to make it. For us believers, it's not when we make it, but why we made it. Why we made it makes us important. It's the size of our storms that makes us important. The size of your storm can be directly related to the size of the assignment

that God has planned for your life.



We are important because of what lies ahead of us on the other side of

the storm. My question is this: what assignment has God given you after your storm?

After your storm, you will have a testimony that can change lives, save lives, and provide the spiritual healing that people may need. There

we just need to remember the one who can calm the storms of life.

May God grant you spiritual success after your storm.

Question: What assignment did God give you after your storm?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books, **Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life** and **A Champion Game Plan for Life**, at amazon.com.

NEXT WEEK:

"The Main Event"

2505 University Dr. NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35816
(256) 539.9693

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

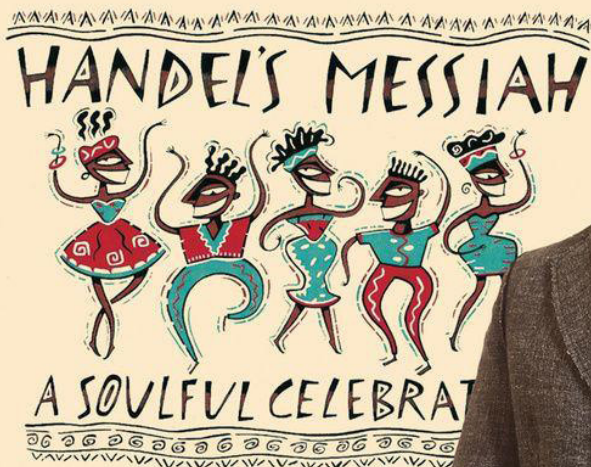
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Celebrating 32 Years of "Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration"

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, . . ." - Isaiah 9:6



As we move into this holiday season of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ referenced in the above Bible text, let me introduce you to the 32th anniversary of a Christmas classic - with a local connection.

In 1992, *Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration* debuted as a re-interpretation of composer George Frideric Handel's 1741 oratorio.

This 75-minute presentation was co-produced by Huntsville, Alabama native Mervyn Warren, pictured above.

A 1985 Oakwood College graduate and original member of its Grammy Award-winning Take 6 a cappella sextet, Warren's re-interpretation showcased multiple genres of African American music.

For example, he remixed Handel's original opening *Overture* to create *Overture: A Partial History of Black Music, Overture*; it featured such African-American genres as spirituals, hip-hop, R&B, ragtime, big band, jazz fusion, and blues.

To conclude this 16-song album, Quincy Jones conducted the Hallelujah Chorus finale *Hallelujah!*, which featured an All-Star cast of Black entertainers; view the list at [Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration](#) - Wikipedia.

The Results?

A Soulful Celebration won the 1992 Grammy and Dove Awards for Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album and Contemporary Gospel Album of the Year, respectively; also in 1992, it charted on *The Top Gospel Albums* (#3), *Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums* (11), *Top Contemporary Christian Albums* (13), and *The Billboard 200* (82).

Shortly after receiving their 1992 Grammy Awards, I was privileged to bring "Skipper" Warren to Hampton University in March 1993, to conduct a music workshop concluding with Warren guest-conducting *Hallelujah!* with HU's His Chosen Sound gospel choir.

Need to refresh your holiday spirit? Revisit [Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration](#) - Wikipedia, . . .

. . . Then, more importantly, go out and create your own Soulful Celebration in your home, work- and worship place, . . .

. . . And finally and most importantly, make it last another 32 years!



Tim Allston

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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

The Wrong Punctuation ...

How many times have you used the wrong punctuation? You know what I mean. Putting a period where a comma went or a period in place of an exclamation mark. What about a question mark where a period belongs? Yeah, you know what I mean.

I always use my morning motivation or workouts as examples. So, why stop now? This morning was a tough day for me. I rested, but my body was fatigued. I am still getting over a health setback, so I am not in the shape I was in last year.

I saw the difference this morning. I wanted to slam that period down, but I said, "Nah, it doesn't belong there." I got up and got dressed to workout, so I needed

to pause for a moment, put a comma there, and keep pressing. How often do we do that? Just say, this is hard, painful, and irritating, so let me just put this period here and quit.

How does that really make you feel? Certainly not accomplished. What about questioning your ability to do something?

Instead of saying, "Can I do this?" replace it with "I can do this." Or possibly, a period where you need to add emphasis! "I think I can" when you should say, "I know I can!"

We all had to go through English classes. Why are you mixing up the punctuation? Why are you applying the negative connotations to your life's story? If there ever was a chance to be

an author, you have the ability to do it in your life, right now! You have control over the punctuation marks you place in your story. Use the ones that are positive! Apply the ones that celebrate you! Employ the ones that encourage you to keep going!

Look them up if you don't remember what you were taught. Start using the punctuation that catapults you to the next level! Start harnessing the punctuation marks that give you strength, endurance, and fortitude! Love yourself enough to make your storyline exciting, memorable, and fun!

Let's write together, one moment at a time! Try it today. Be intentional with your punctuation. Make this week amazing. You have the ability to do it! I believe in you. Don't let me do that by myself! God loves you, and so do I! He has given you a gift; open it!

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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru January 5

Skating in the Park
Big Spring Park
Downtown Huntsville

701 Amphitheater Drive
NW
Huntsville, Ala.
10 a.m.

December 4

"A Charlie Brown
Christmas on Stage"
Von Braun Center
6 p.m.

Day of Remembrance
Ceremony to Commemorate
Lynching Victim
Robert Mosley/Marker
Dedication
5905 Higdon Road NE
Huntsville, Ala.
2 p.m.

December 5

Christmas Carnival of
Lights
Christmas Parade Pre-
sented by Bryant Bank
Downtown Huntsville

2nd Annual Gala
The Sister Circle LLC
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
6 p.m.

Candle Pouring Experi-
ence

1320 McMullen Road
Gurley, Ala.
6-8 p.m.

December 8

Sip & Stroll Night Mar-
ket Series: Jingle &
Mingle

December 6

Christmas 2024 NEACA
Craft Show
Von Braun Center South
Hall
Downtown Huntsville
9 a.m.-6 p.m.

701 Amphitheater Drive
NW
Huntsville, Ala.
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Holiday 5k/10k
Joe Davis Stadium
4 p.m.

December 7

AUDITIONS: The Wiz-
ard of Oz
10300 Bailey Cove Road
SE, Suite 7
Huntsville, Ala.
9 a.m.

Cousin Tiera
Comedian
Stand Up Live Huntsville
2012 Memorial Parkway
SW (\$35-\$45)
Huntsville, Ala.
(256) 261-3374
huntsville.standuplive.
com

Holidays at The Orion
Christmas Carnival

December 14

The Raven Masquerade:
A Royal Fairy Court
Masquerade Ball
3110 Hwy. 31 S
Decatur, Ala.
5-10 p.m.

December 20

Big Spring Jingle
Big Spring Park
Downtown Huntsville
4-9 p.m.

December 21

Winter Solstice Plant
Medicine Ceremony
Coordinator: <edusa
Dakini - \$10-20
205A Water Tank Road
Toney, Ala.
4:30-7:30 p.m.
[https://square.link/u/
uvAO6rb6](https://square.link/u/uvAO6rb6)

January 30

Love's Rosetta Stone: The
Love Language Event
2205 University Drive
NW
Huntsville, Ala.
6:30 p.m.

February 8

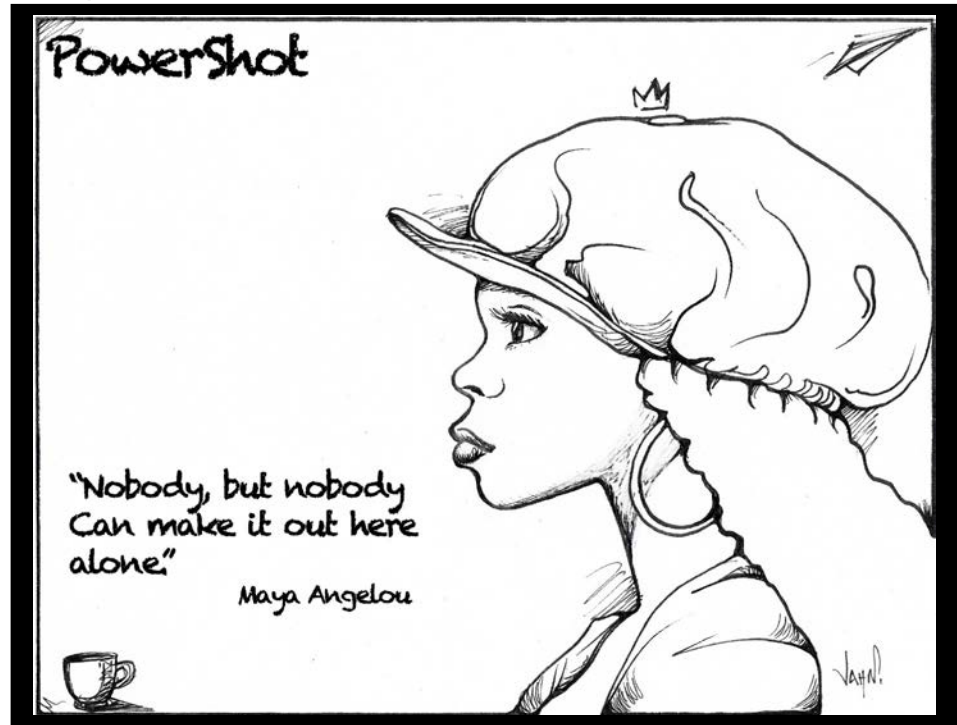
R&N Invitation
Featuring:
Eric Benet
Joe
Musiq Soulchild
VBC Propst Arena
Ticketmaster

February 15

"4 Phase of RNB"
Mars Music Hall/VBC
700 Monroe Street SW
Huntsville, Ala.
Ticketmaster

February 28

Heritage Entertainment:
"Blues Is Alright"
VBC Propst Arena
Huntsville, Ala.



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"... They made hate just like they had a formula for it and followed that formula down to the last exact gallon of misery put in."

- J. California Cooper



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

Mr. Charles Briggins, Sr.

Charles E. Briggins, Sr., is a retired educator who enjoyed a productive career at Kentucky State University and in the Decatur and Huntsville City School Systems.

Briggins held positions ranging from classroom teacher to vocational coordinator and assistant principal of Lakeside High School in Decatur, Alabama. He earned his bachelor's and master's degree in trade and industrial education from Alabama A&M University.

After retirement, Briggins served as a weatherization coordinator for the Huntsville/Madison and Limestone Counties



Community Action Agency. He is a member of the First Missionary Baptist Church, where he has served as director of the male chorus. He still sings in the male chorus and

other choirs.

Briggins gallantly served his country and is a proud veteran of the United States Army. His community service, however, involves active membership in the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the R.E. Nelms Elks Lodge #977.



"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@valleyweeklyllc.com.



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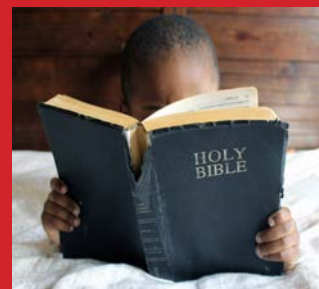
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This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Second Sunday
of
Advent



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:
Malachi 3:1-4

Canticle 4 or 16

Second Lesson:
Philippians 1:3-11

GOSPEL:

Luke 3:1-6



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OPEN: April–October: Tuesday – Saturday: 9 am – 5 pm & Sunday: noon – 5pm
November–March: Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 4pm & Sunday: noon – 4pm

Arts Huntsville, The Orion Announce Return of 'Christkindlmarket Huntsville'

Arts Huntsville and The Orion Amphitheater are excited to announce the return of Christkindlmarket Huntsville, a free community event. Christkindlmarket Huntsville is presented by Redstone Federal Credit Union, and this unique holiday shopping experience combines German and European tradition with local flair.

Over 60 juried artists will be featured alongside a blend of holiday food, drink, and music at The Orion Amphitheater on December 13, 14, and 15, 2024.

Christkindlmarket Huntsville offers shoppers the opportunity to find that one-of-a-kind holiday gift, including handcrafted ornaments, decorations, jewelry, and apparel.

Artwork offered by the juried professional artists includes painting, drawing, mixed media, clay, glass, jewelry, fiber, photography, sculpture, and wood.

"We are delighted to return to the Orion



Amphitheatre for the third year of Christkindlmarket Huntsville," said Arts Huntsville Executive Director Allison Dillon-Jauken. "This special holiday market is a fantastic opportunity to find unique, one-of-a-kind gifts from regional artists as we come together with friends and family to enjoy the holiday season."

In addition to shopping, Christkindlmarket Huntsville will offer live, local music throughout the three-day market. On Friday, Dec. 13, music performances are scheduled from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with the Huntsville Little German Band, Mulan Throneberry, and Steven Miller.

On Saturday, Dec. 14, you can enjoy live music from 10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. featuring Steven Miller, Winslow Davis, Josh Allison, and Frank Caravella. Sunday, Dec. 15 performances will be from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will feature Sparkapella, Alex D. Banks II, Josh Taylor, and Karmessa & Micah J.

Christkindlmarket Huntsville will be open to the community from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 and from 11 am to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 and Sunday, Dec. 15. The market is free to attend with free onsite parking. The Orion Amphitheater will offer a special selection of Bavar-

ian food, drink, and treats available for purchase. The Orion Amphitheatre is located at 701 Amphitheater Dr NW, Huntsville, Ala. 35806.

Christkindlmarket Huntsville details, along with a full list of artist participants, can be found at <http://www.artshuntsville.org/christkindlmarket/>. Info can also be found on the market's Facebook event page. For more information on Arts Huntsville, visit www.artshuntsville.org and follow @ArtsHuntsville on Facebook and Instagram.

For more information on The Orion Amphitheater, visit www.theorionhuntsville.com and follow @theorionamphitheater on Facebook and Instagram and @theorionamp on Twitter.

Additional information on Arts Huntsville can be found by visiting the Arts Huntsville website, calling 256-519-ARTS (2787) or following @ArtsHuntsville on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Arts Huntsville is a non-profit organization founded in 1962 to stimulate and support

community creativity and engagement by advancing the arts, entertainment, and culture to enrich quality of life, education, and economic development in the greater Huntsville metropolitan region. Arts Huntsville serves Huntsville's arts and cultural organizations, individual artists, and arts-related businesses through five core program areas: Arts Promotion & Support, Arts Education, Public Art, Community Events, and the Sandra Moon Performing Arts Center.

by Patrice Johnson



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Scenes from Travel Industry Conference/Green Book Honorees

Monday, November 18, 2024 - Von Braun Center South Hall

Host: Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau



Huntsville historian William Hampton was among five recipients of the Green Book Experience Cultural Tourism Awards presented during Travel Exchange, a conference for packaged travel professionals. The four-day conference was hosted by the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors, and it attracted scores of travel planners to Huntsville.

Additionally, the National Tour Association, NTA, is the premier association for tour operators, destination marketers, and tour suppliers (i.e., hotels, restaurants, experience providers, etc.). Travel Exchange brings them together to share information and create itineraries. There were professionals from 22 countries, 48 states (and D.C.), and seven provinces.

