

# The Valley Weekly

Volume 2, No. 14

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, December 18, 2015

FREE

*"The most dangerous creation of any society is the man who has nothing to lose."*

- James Baldwin

## Rosetta James Foundation Prepares for 10th Anniversary

The Rosetta James Foundation announces its 10th Annual Honoring Our Elders Celebration for Saturday, March 12, 2016, at The Jackson Center.

The Foundation honors persons who are 70 years of age or older who are still actively involved in their communities at multiple levels. The Foundation also supports scholarships for students who attend local colleges and universities and who are also fervent volunteers.

The 2016 honorees will be announced on January 1, 2016. Information about the decade-old celebration can be answered by Ms. Linda Burruss at (256) 536-9717.



Rosetta James

## HBG Plans "Seeds to Sprouts: Lemonade in Winter"

The Huntsville Botanical Garden will hold "Seeds to Sprouts: Lemonade in Winter" on Friday, January 8, from 10-11 a.m. at its Anderson Education Center Classroom.

Children will be able to enjoy exciting stories, crafts, learning activities, and walks (pending weather) in the Garden. Each class explores a different topic to get your little one experiencing nature and all it has to offer.

Register at (256) 837-4104.

## Holiday Tradition Continued by First Lady Obama

On Monday, December 14, 2015, First Lady Michelle Obama continued a tradition that dates back to First Lady Bess Truman.

First Lady Obama visited the Children's National Health System based in Washington, D.C.

At the hospital, Mrs. Obama had a tour, visited patients, and thanked the Children's staff for their work.

Following the tour, First Lady Obama read to the children and answered their questions in the hospital's atrium.

(Whitehouse.gov)



## Pastors Attend OU Council

Over 1,000 ministers, Bible instructors, conference leaders, and lay members were in Huntsville earlier this week, for the 2015 Pastoral Evangelism and Leadership Council (PELC), December 6-9, at the Oakwood University Church.

"This yearly conference represents the largest annual gathering of Adventist clergy leaders in the world church of Seventh-day Adventists," commented Jesse Wilson, D.Min., PELC director and OU religion professor.

In addition to "boot camp" training sessions, and nightly inspiration and preaching services, Distinguished Service Awards were given to Fred Crowe, Benjamin Jones, T.A. McNealy, Earl Moore, Phyllis Ware-Lee, Gerald Pennick, E.E. Rogers, Helvius Thompson, and Henry Wright, for their contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist gospel ministry.

- Inside Oakwood



**MORMAN FESTIVAL:** The 70-voice concert choir and 27-piece orchestra of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Huntsville and Madison, Alabama, Stakes) prepare just minutes before one of a total of nine "Christ Is Born!" Christmas concerts on Sunday, December 13, 2015. (Photo by Jerome Saintjones)

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

AAMU Public Relations Office

Albert's Flowers

Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law

Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

Books a Million - N. Parkway/University Drive

Briar Fork CP Church

Bryant Bank - Church Street

Burritt on the Mountain

Chris' Barber Shop

Depot Professional Building

Dunkin Donuts

Eagles' Nest Ministries

The Favour Group

Fellowship of Faith Church

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Garden Cove Produce

Health Unlimited

Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church

James Smith - AllState Insurance

Lakeside United Methodist Church

Landers McLarty Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram

Lucky's Supermarket

Mamma Annie's

Marshall England - State Farm Agent

Martinson &amp; Beason, PC

Moe's - Village of Providence

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

North Alabama Center for Educational

Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Phuket's in Providence

Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Progress Bank - Madison

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

# Make a Wise Choice When Selecting a Tax Preparer

While there is still time before the next tax filing season, choosing a return preparer now allows more time for taxpayers to consider appropriate options and to find and talk with prospective tax preparers rather than during tax season when they're most busy.

Furthermore, it enables taxpayers to do some wise tax planning for the rest of the year. If a taxpayer prefers to pay someone to prepare their return, the Internal Revenue Service encour-

ages them to choose that person wisely, as the taxpayer is legally responsible for all the information included on the return.

Below are some tips taxpayers can keep in mind when selecting a tax professional:

- Select an ethical preparer.
- Ask about service fees.
- Be sure to use a preparer with a preparer tax identification number (PTIN).
- Research the preparer's history and License and Business His-

tory.

- Ask for e-file.
- Provide tax records.
- Make sure the preparer is available after the filing due date.
- Review the tax return and ask questions before signing.
- Never sign a blank tax return.
- Preparers must sign the return and include their PTIN as required by law.

Most tax return preparers are professional, honest and provide excellent service to their clients.

However, dishonest and unscrupulous tax return preparers who file false income tax returns do exist. Always check any return for errors to avoid potential financial and legal problems.

For more information about choosing a tax return preparer, see Choosing a Tax Professional and IRS Tax PRO Association Partners on IRS.gov.

(Condensed from irs.gov)

## Holiday Alert: Delivery Scams May Arrive at Your Door

Everyone loves a surprise present... except when it's a scam. Be on the lookout for scammers who are taking advantage of the holiday season.

*How the Scam Works:* Your phone rings, and it's a delivery company saying that you have a package on the way. A short while later, the door bell rings. Sure enough, it's a delivery person holding a gift basket. You ask who sent the gift, but the deliverer doesn't know. He or she may claim the card was sent separately.

You decide to accept the "gift" anyway. Before the delivery person can leave it, he or she says you need to pay a nominal "verification fee." In one version of the scam, the amount allegedly confirms that the basket, which contains a bottle of wine, was given to a person of legal drinking age. The delivery person claims he or she can only accept credit or debit cards, and produces a hand-held card scanner. This may all seem totally

normal, but it's a set up. The "card scanner" is actually a device that collects the credit/debit card number, PIN and/or security code. Con artists then use this to make unauthorized charges or commit identity theft.

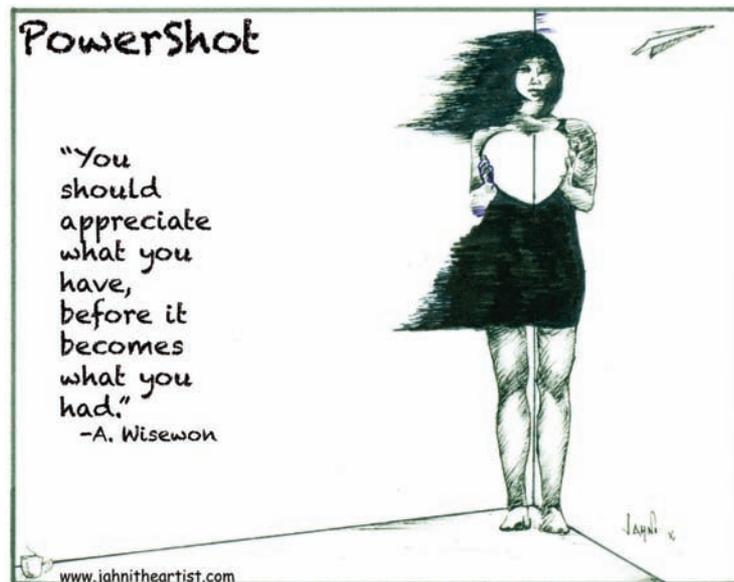
Protect Yourself from a Delivery Scam:

- Be suspicious of a package from an unrecognized delivery service or source.
- Do not give your credit or debit

card to someone at your door.

- Asking for ID is OK, but not a credit card.
- Look out for other variations.

More at [bbb.org/holidayscams](http://bbb.org/holidayscams).



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## Going For It

To do what you know you need to do, the time will never be just right. It will be the right time when you make it the time. As a child, a section of woods in the city separated my house from my best friend's house.

With no streetlights in the wooded area, at night, it got really dark. I tried to make it a point to head home before the sun went all the way down. On one particular day I stayed longer than usual. Before I knew it, it was dark ... and the wooded area was even darker.

My friends kept 'hemming and hawing' about walking me home. I soon realized that they were scared, too, and it was getting later and darker. Either way I would have to walk alone.

Finally, I gathered my guts, grabbed a handful of rocks and headed on out. Sometimes, you can't wait for the right people, time or the stars to line up. You just have to grab your stuff and go for it.

- John 'Jahni' Moore



## From Our Guest Editor

# DAVID PERSON

## Moving On

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*When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at [www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com).*

For 10 years, I've been the host of WEUPTalk on WEUP 94.5 FM/1700 AM. It fulfilled a long-time dream of mine to do talk radio on a black station. And after 10 years and more than 2,000 shows, it's time for me to move on.

I am very grateful to Dr. Virginia Caples and Hundley Batts for giving me a chance to host this important show. WEUPTalk was a local broadcasting institution long before I joined the team,



thanks to my late predecessors Ben Casey, Ben Johnson and Tony Jordan. It was the only place where black folks could hear the issues they care about discussed daily with empathy and insight. Following the lead of my late colleagues, I hosted discussions about civil rights, economics and entrepreneurship, HIV-AIDS and other health issues, the church, local education issues, the election and re-election of President Barack Obama, and a host of other issues. I was also able to interview notable people such as Congressman John Lewis and best-selling author Michelle Alexander (*The New Jim Crow*).

I will miss doing a live, daily radio show. But the future has already begun.

I've been contracting with various clients as a media/media relations consultant. Some of my clients include Phoenix, a local non-profit that serves people with disabilities; the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice in Washington, D.C.; Enroll Alabama, the Alabama grantee of the Affordable Health Care Act; and Rain International, a health and wellness company in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Additionally, I've been writing columns for USA Today and for the Ministry Matters website. In 2016, I hope to contract with new clients while also working on these special projects:

- Not Our Bodies, a television documentary about the connection between racism and rape culture, featuring Mrs. Recy Taylor, the African-American woman who survived a brutal gang rape in Abbeville, Ala., in 1944;
- Exodus, another TV documentary about the growing number of atheists and agnostics in the black community;
- The Have-Nots, a book about poverty that I am co-writing with Dr. Roger Richardson of Alabama A&M University.

Dec. 31 will be my last show. On Jan. 4, WAAY-TV anchor Justin McFarland will be the new host of WEUPTalk. Like me, radio is in his blood. WEUPTalk will be in great hands.



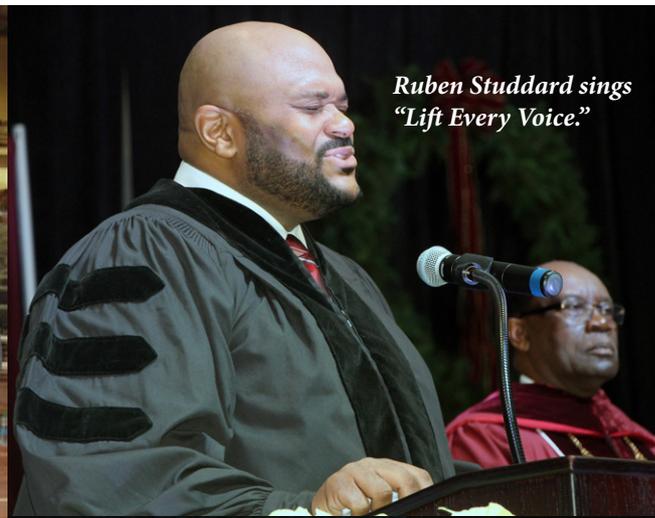
# Holiday Happenings Around the Valley

# Fall Commencement 2015 at Alabama A&M University

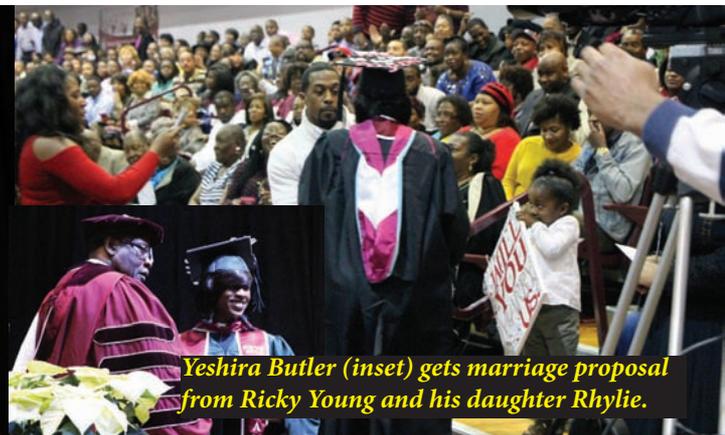
December 11, 2015



WIU First Lady Linda Goldsmith Thomas and AAMU First Lady Abbiegail Hugine.



Ruben Studdard sings "Lift Every Voice."



Yeshira Butler (inset) gets marriage proposal from Ricky Young and his daughter Rhylic.



Dr. Kendra Chambers, J.F. Drake Community and Technical College interim president (r) and administrators.



AAMU Band

## Huntsville Progressive Chapter Holds Holiday Membership Drive December 7, 2015

The Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., held its Annual Membership Drive and Holiday Social on Monday, December 7, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., in the VIP Room of the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the beautiful campus of Alabama A&M University.

At the informational section of the event, Miss Carla R. Clift, president, greeted the guests and gave an impressive summary of the chapter's achievements and its future activities and events. The focal point of the event was an attractive display showcasing the chapter's present and past

scholarship and book stipend recipients and the present and past leadership awards honorees, along with other chapters' publication materials.

Also, Dr. Terrance Vickerstaff, Alabama-Regional Vice President of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., and chaplain of the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, extended greetings to the group.

A motivating and inspiring short talk on "Three Reasons to Join an Alumni Chapter" was delivered by Mrs. Georgia S. Valrie, co-chairperson of the membership committee. Following the presentation, several of the guests were inspired, and they became



members of the chapter.

The evening was filled with alumni fellowship, fun and the enjoyment of the delicious refreshments catered by ARAMARK Campus Dining and music provided by WJAB 90.9 FM. At the close of the event,

door prizes were presented to the guests.

Alumni interested in joining the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., should e-mail Mrs. Veronica Collins, membership chairperson at [hpacmembership@yahoo.com](mailto:hpacmembership@yahoo.com).



Left to Right: Ms. Lettye Boyd, Carla Clift and Georgia S. Valrie.

# Nation's Colleges Getting Heat to Step up Their Games

*Degree Works Makes Advising at AAMU, Other Schools Easier*

Student affairs personnel at Alabama A&M University and other schools throughout the nation are working feverishly to make students aware of a new initiative that will make their overall advising experience more hands-on, as well as more effective throughout their matriculation.

To achieve a comprehensive, user-friendly and web-based academic advising and degree audit mechanism for AAMU students and their advisors, the Registrar's office has launched DegreeWorks, the popular tool and product of Ellucian, based in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area.

AAMU students and advisors who access the system via their online account have immediate access to a given student's records, along with the requirements and most recent updates and or modification to the curriculum. Staff say the new program could allow the completion of an advising session in some situations in as little as three to five minutes.

Complete College America commissioned a policy brief two years ago that collected data from more than 300 public two-year and four-year institutions in 30 states. CCA found that nearly 70



percent of college students were not enrolled in a schedule that would lead to on-time graduation, even if they never switched majors, failed a class, or sat in a class they did not need. The report also found that more than 50 percent of students who were considered "full-time" were taking less than the 15 hours needed for on-time graduation.

Additionally, CCA has found that, nationwide, at most public universities, only 19 percent of full-time students earn a bachelor's degree in four years. Even at selective, research-intensive state flagship universities only 36 percent of full-time students complete their bachelor's degree on time, or in four years. Among the list of causes of slow student progress is a breakdown in communication between the advisor

and student.

"The key message here is that time is money," stresses Dr. Gary Crosby, AAMU interim vice president for student affairs. "In simpler terms: the longer a student is in school, the more debt he/she will incur."

This is why the addition of DegreeWorks is such an asset as a self-help advising tool to keep students on the road to graduation, said Kandace Betts of the Registrar's office. More forward-thinking departments and faculty members have already received training and are already on their way toward becoming more efficient advisors.

According to Registrar Brenda Williams, through DegreeWorks, a student will have immediate access to GPA, classification, holds, major/minor/concentration info,

a list of classes needed and the grades needed to satisfy curriculum, and class availability.

A marketing push for the new web-based tool and related

training sessions will continue throughout spring semester 2016, says Venita Clisby King, AAMU director of admissions.

*by Jerome Saintjones*

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## Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation

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The Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation provides financial scholarship to undergraduate students who demonstrate sound academic principles; commitment to community volunteerism, civic engagement and unselfishness to assist others in Huntsville/Madison County.

The Rosetta James Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization with a 0% Administrative and Fundraising Rate (AFR). For additional information, contact (256) 536-9717 or write P.O. Box 17452, Huntsville, AL 35810.



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# Calendar of Events

## Thru December 31

"Celestial Dreams: The Art of Space Jewelry"  
U.S. Space and Rocket Center

A. Jones, Sr., Charlotte, N.C.  
Progressive Union MB Church  
1919 Brantontown Road  
7 p.m.

## Thru January 24, 2016

"Blow Up: Inflatable Contemporary Art"  
Sponsors: Sarah and Carl Gessler  
Huntsville Museum of Art

**January 16**  
"Journey's Escape"  
Black Jacket Symphony  
Von Braun Center Concert Hall  
8 p.m.

## December 17-19

Special Holiday Jazz

**January 16-18**  
Oakwood University MLK Basketball Classic

## December 26

CONCERT  
Jim Brickman  
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall  
VBC  
7:30 p.m.

**January 18**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast  
Von Braun Center North Hall

## December 31

"Have Yourself A Jazzy Little New Year"  
(In support of the Jack & Annie Anderson 2nd Chance Scholarship)  
Burritt on the Mountain Museum  
8 p.m.-12 a.m.

**February 7**  
60th Anniversary Observation  
Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
3740 Meridian Street

**March 3**  
Black Tie Dinner and Live Auction  
2016 Gala Art Exhibition  
Huntsville Museum of Art

## January 9

Bulldog Basketball vs. University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff  
Alabama A&M University  
T.M. Elmore Building  
6 p.m.

**March 18**  
Inaugural Education Banquet for the Julius R. Scruggs Child Development Center and Academy  
Guest Speaker: Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.  
First Missionary Baptist Church  
Blue Spring Road  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6 p.m.

## January 10

Harlem Globetrotters  
VBC Arena

## January 15

The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Emancipation Proclamation Celebration  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Clifford

# PATTI'S PIES

While we are within this holiday season, A. Savvy Articles is still on the topic of food, family, fun, and fellowship. One of my major Christmas enjoyments is the amazing desserts and delectables. There is nothing like the homemade cakes, pies, puddings, chocolate fudges, Christmas cookies, gingerbread men, candy canes, and other Christmas chocolates and candies that we indulge in during the holiday.

By now, we have all heard about Patti Labelle's Sweet Potato Pie that hit the market during Thanksgiving and sold out soon after. According to CNBC, "Labelle's pies became a hot commodity last month after YouTube James Wright posted his enthusiastic review of the pies. In fact, Ales said Wal-Mart sold one pie per second for 72 hours straight after the video went viral.

"At the end of November, the pies were the most-requested item across all Wal-Mart Wish Lists,"

Ales said.

The pies will now be available year round and stores across the country will be receiving their shipments in the coming weeks." (cnbc.com)

I was extremely happy to hear of Ms. Labelle's suc-

cess with her sweet potato pies. It was very marketable for her to stock the pies in stores around the holidays because quite naturally, we are indulging in sweet



today and sell plenty of copies, but for her to sell out of pies shows either her extra talent for baking or her name still holds weight. Either way, it is always

a good thing when your product lands a major distributor such as Wal-Mart, and it's even better when it sells out and receives a year round shelf life.

As entrepreneurs and entertainers, etc., never feel obligated to stay in one lane. Sometimes you have to wear several hats or display more than one of your abilities, gifts, talents or skills with the rest of the world, especially in a fickle industry such as entertainment. You can be up one moment, and down the next, therefore it's important to hone more skills than one. Although we know Patti Labelle for her amazing musical skills, we now know she can bake a "mean" pie that is just as much of a hit as her melodious voice.

(Photo cred: www.walmart.com)

All the best,

Amoi Savage

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## Huntsville City Council Meetings

City Council regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. City Council Work Sessions also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



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## On This Day - December 18

**Ossie Davis** - He was born in Cogdell, Georgia. He is most well known for parts played late in his life in films such as "Do The Right Thing," "Jungle Fever," "She Hate Me" and "Get on the Bus." He died in 2005.

- BlackInTime.info

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LEAP Grad 2015

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- Llailah Afrika

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