

Huntsville Tags Former A&M Prof for DEI Post - p. 9

FREE



Dr. Randy Barbour

Surviving 'Quitter's Day' - p. 5

Friday
January 17, 2025
Vol. 11, No. 20
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

The Valley Weekly

Deltas Hold 'Day of Service' - p. 11

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford

"Those who deplore our militants, who exhort patience in the name of a false peace, are in fact supporting segregation and exploitation." - A. Philip Randolph

Free War Dawgs Camp Set

Exciting news abounds for young athletes and their families! The War Dawgs FREE Kids Camp is back, and it's going to be bigger and better than ever!



- Ball Handling Skills

- Passing Techniques
- Special Guests
- Meet the War Dawgs and Diva Dawgs

BONUS: Register today and receive a FREE ticket to the War Dawgs' home game on January 25!

Carrabba's Italian Grill and Red Lobster served in the War Room VIP Lounge. Don't forget to bring clothing donations to support those in need

in the community. This could be the chance for your child to learn from the best, develop basketball skills, and have fun!

Register today at <https://wardawgs-basketball.com/war-dawgs-kids-camp/>

Big thanks to our amazing sponsors: Carrabba's Italian Grill, Alchemist X, and Red Lobster! Let's build champions on and off the court!



HAAR/ValleyMLS Give Back: The Huntsville Area Association of REALTORS (HAAR) and the Valley Multiple Listing Service hosted a Charity Ball. Coordinated by the organizations' Community Impact Committee, the activity supports advocacy efforts for children, seniors, veterans, housing, the arts and animal welfare. For additional images, see Page 10.

AAMU Welcomes Back Faculty & Staff at Mid-Year Conference

Alabama A&M University recently held its Spring 2025 Faculty and Staff Conference at the Event Center, celebrating past achievements and setting the stage for another successful academic year. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. John

Jones, welcomed AAMU faculty and staff back to campus as the campus community received updates from the President's Cabinet highlighting accomplishments of 2024 and goals for the new year.

Faculty and staff gained insights from speakers including

General Counsel Attorney Rochelle A. Conley and Chief Information Officer Dr. Kylie Nash. Vice President for Marketing, Communication, and Advancement Jamal Ali emphasized the 150th Anniversary Campaign, while Carlton Spellman provided updates

from Business & Finance. Dr. Braque Talley, Vice President of Student Affairs, celebrated the second consecutive year of record enrollment, reaching 7,300 students. Dr. Majed El-Dweik, Vice President of Research and Economic Development, reported a

substantial increase in research grants from \$70 million in 2023 to \$88 million in 2024.

Athletics Director Dr. Paul Bryant lauded the women's tennis team for their national championship victory and introduced new Head Football Coach Sam Shade.

The Valley Weekly

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Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm



Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in session this week. The Senate will hold confirmation hearings on 13 Trump Cabinet nominees, including DoD Secretary nominee Pete Hegseth, Marco Rubio at State, Scott Bessent at Treasury, Doug Burgum at Interior, Kristi Noem at Homeland Security, Sean Duffy at Transportation, and Pam Bondi for Attorney General. On the Senate floor, Senators will continue debate on the Laken Riley Act, a GOP *cri de coeur* that would allow authorities to take custody of illegal aliens who commit theft-related crimes, such as shoplifting (the bill passed the House last week on a 264-159 vote, with 48 D's voting across the aisle). The House will take up 2 GOP bills on transgender and immigration issues: (1) a bill to bar schools and colleges that receive federal money from allowing transgender athletes whose biological sex assigned at birth was male to compete on girls or women's sports teams or athletic events and (2) a bill to designate aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed sex offenses or domestic

violence to be inadmissible and deportable.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. Last week, the President canceled his planned 4-day trip to Italy to meet with Pope Francis (and award him the Presidential Medal of Freedom) and Italian government leaders to remain in the U.S. to monitor the Los Angeles fires, for which he has approved a major disaster declaration and sent military firefighting assets to the state. On Wednesday at 8 p.m. EST, the President delivered a Farewell Address to the nation from the Oval Office. Last Friday, the Biden Administration issued sweeping sanctions against the Russian energy sector, including two large Russian oil companies and 183 oil tankers (sanctions that the Administration has been reluctant to issue for fear of raising global oil prices). Also, last Friday, the Administration extended temporary humanitarian protections for 1 million immigrants living in the U.S., allowing immigrants from Venezuela, El Salvador, Ukraine, and Sudan to renew their work permits for 18 months.

3. SUPREME COURT. This week, the Supreme

Court is expected to hand down an expedited ruling from last Friday's TikTok case, in which TikTok sought to block enforcement of a federal law that would require TikTok to shut down in

the U.S. unless its parent company ByteDance can sell off the U.S. company by Sunday (January 19). Last Thursday night (a few hours before his sentencing), the court in a 5-4 vote – with John Roberts and Amy Coney Barrett joining the court's liberals – rejected Donald Trump's plea to halt the sentencing in his New York hush money case, in which he was convicted on 34 counts of falsifying business records to hide reimbursements made to adult film star Stormy Daniels. On Friday, the court added a case to this year's docket pertaining to whether the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is allowed to require coverage for anti-HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medications. The plaintiffs object on religious grounds that the medications encourage homosexual behavior (the case is *Becerra v. Braidwood Management, Inc.*).

4. RECONCILIATION PLANS. Congressional Quarterly (CQ) is reporting that the House Budget Committee is circulating a list of possible entitlement program cuts as offsets to pay for the massive new tax bill that is job #1 for the GOP this year. Cuts include: (1) a per capita

cap on Medicaid grants to states; (2) cutting Medicare payments to hospital outpatient departments; (3) repealing Obamacare's Prevention and Public Health Fund; (4) eliminating Biden-era healthcare expansions; (5) freezing SNAP spending and rolling back the Thrifty Foods Program; (6) ending climate change spending; and (7) clawing back student debt relief programs.

5. JOBS REPORT. On Friday, the Labor Department announced that the U.S. economy added a whopping 256,000 jobs in December, blowing past predictions of 155,000 jobs, with the unemployment rate ticking down to 4.1% from November's 4.2%. Markets fell sharply Friday with the Dow and Nasdaq dropping 1.6% on the worry that the high jobs report will cause the Federal Reserve to skip an expected rate cut at its

January 28-29 meeting.

6. DOGE. The Washington Post reported on Saturday that Elon Musk's new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has already begun sending its inquisitors to federal agencies to begin interviews with federal employees to jump start its mission to cut \$2 trillion in spending. DOGE is headquartered in Musk's SpaceX building at 11th and F Streets, NW – 5 blocks from the White House and now has 50 employees with plans to have a staff of 100 in place by Inauguration Day. Key DOGE staffers include top leader Steve Davis, the President of Musk's Boring Company who also oversaw steep cost-cutting at Twitter (now X) and Emil Michael, a former Uber executive, who will supervise anti-regulatory work. The New York Times reports that Musk

plans to install 2 DOGE reps at each agency and set up a special DOGE office at the White House Office of Management and Budget.

7. RETURN OF THE TRUMP HOTEL? The Wall Street Journal reported last week that the Trump Organization has begun talks to reacquire the lease on DC's Old Post Office Building, now the site of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, which was, until sold in 2022 for \$375 million, the Trump International Hotel. In related news, this Sunday (Jan 19) Donald Trump will host a pre-Inaugural "Make America Great Again Victory Rally" at 3 p.m. at the 20,000-seat Capital One Arena in downtown DC.

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ON THIS DAY

On January 17, 1834, the Alabama State Legislature passed Act 44 as part of a series of increasingly restrictive laws governing the behavior of free and enslaved Black people, which prohibited Black people from being freed within the state and authorized re-enslavement of any free Black person who entered the state.




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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least **TWO** weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items published do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the editorial staff, and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions.

**The Valley Weekly**

Ad Rates Single Issue

Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,500
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$1,200
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$900
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AKA and Its Legendary Service to Mankind

Ahhh, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority ... exemplifying Service to Mankind!

My beloved sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., turned 117 years old on January 15th! The sorority is the nation's oldest and largest Greek-letter organizations, founded initially for Negro college women.

College ladies were confined to what co-ed Ethel Hedgeman called "a small, circumscribed life" in the segregated and male-dominated milieu that characterized the early 1900s. A student at Howard University, Hedgeman dreamed of creating a support network for women with like minds to come together for mutual uplift, and to coalesce their talents and strengths for the benefit of others. In 1908, her vision crystallized as Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first Negro Greek-letter sorority.

From the core group of Hedgeman and eight other women at Howard, AKA has grown into a force of more than 360,000 collegiate members and alumnae, constituting 1,000 chapters in 42 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Germany, Liberia, South Korea, Japan, Canada, South Africa and the Middle East. Because they believed that Negro college women represented "the highest—more education, more enlightenment, and more of almost everything that the great mass of Negroes never had" — Hedgeman and her cohorts worked to honor what she called "an everlasting debt to raise them up and to make them better." For more than a century, we have fulfilled that obligation by becoming an indomitable force for good in our communities, state, nation, and the world.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha program today still reflects the collective consciousness steeped in the AKA tradition and embodied in AKA's credo, "To be supreme in service to all mankind." Through the years, Alpha Kappa Alpha has used the Sisterhood as a grand lever to raise the status of African Americans, particularly girls and women. AKA has enriched minds and encouraged lifelong learning; provided aid for the poor, the sick, and underserved; initiated social action to advance human and civil rights; worked collaboratively with other groups to maximize outreach on progressive endeavors; and continually produced leaders to continue its credo of service. (<http://aka1908.com/about/history>).

We are especially honored to celebrate the Vice President of the United States of America, Atty. Kamala Harris, our Soror. Initiated at Howard University, the original chapter of our beginning, she exemplifies our motto: My Culture and by Merit. Happy Birthday to all of my AKA Sorors.

My culture and by merit, let's do what we do!

Until next week ...

Dorothy



JANUARY 17 - MICHELLE OBAMA - Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama is an American lawyer, university administrator, and writer who served as the First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017. She is married to the 44th U.S. President, Barack Obama, and was the first African-American First Lady. Raised on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois, Obama is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School. In her early legal career, she worked at the law firm Sidley Austin, where she met Barack Obama. She subsequently worked in non-profits and as the Associate Dean of Student Services at the University of Chicago and the Vice President for Community and External Affairs of the University of Chicago Medical Center. Michelle married Barack in 1992 and they have two daughters.

- *BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org*



THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**VALLEY
DEATHS**



SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816
(256) 539-9693 - www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MS. KATHY WELSEY** (b. 1955); **MR. WALTER FOLGER** (b. 1934); **MR. MICHAEL AMMARGON** (b. 1945); and **MS. JUSTICE "BABY J" SHOULDERS** (b. 1995).

Funeral service for **MS. ARMONNE PRIDE** (b. 2003) was Sunday, January 5, at Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church, 2350 Wall Triana Hwy. SW, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MS. ANGLEIA MILES** (b. 2000) was held Friday, January 3, at the Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW- Huntsville, AL 35816
(256) 539-8189 - www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral services for **MR. JAKE L. NIXON, JR.** (b. 1957); **MRS. SOPHIA FELIX JONES** (b. 1946); and **MR. ANTONIO BRAXTON POWELL** (b. 1983) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MRS. JANICE DEAN FISHER** (b. 1959) will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 12 p.m. at Lakewood Baptist Church.



Celebration of Life for **MS. EUGENIA L. HORTON** (b. 1958) will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 12:00 p.m. at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.



Funeral service for **MR. RONALD SLOAN** (b. 1955) was Monday, January 13, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35810 -
(256) 534-8481 - www.royalfh.com

Funeral service for **MR. ABRAHAM MCCALL, JR.** (b. 1947), a veteran, will be 2 p.m., Saturday, January 18, at Union Chapel M.B. Church, 315 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.



Funeral service for **MRS. MATTIE ROSA WILLIAMS** (b. 1940) was Sunday, January 12, at New Jerusalem M.B. Church, 2562 Bob Wade Lane, Harvest, Ala., with Pastor Ricky Sykes officiating.

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S

Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "Make Time"

In Matthew 6:33, it says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."

Today, we live in a society where everybody is so busy, whether at work, with all the demands of our jobs, or at home, with all the demands of our families. Or perhaps you are a student who never has enough time in the day to do the things that you really enjoy doing.

Whatever the reasons, there never seems to be enough time, right? But remember—what we put our time, effort, and money into becomes what's important to us.

If we say that we don't have time to spend with God, then God is obviously not important in our lives. So, let us not deceive ourselves. Anything you really want to do, you will find time to do.

I have learned that God is a maximum-capacity God. If you give Him five minutes of your time, He will fill it up. If you give Him thirty minutes of your time, He will fill that up, as well.

Whatever time you set aside for Him will be worth your while. Remember—God will always meet you where you are, but refuses to leave you there. So I encourage you to start today, because it will change your life forever.

Also, spending time with God gives our lives meaning and purpose. Dear God, give us a willing spirit that will allow us to spend quality time with you.

Question: How can we



make more time for God this year?

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:
"Who's on First?"**

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

**"WE CANNOT ERASE THE STING OF DEATH,
BUT WE CAN MAKE IT EASIER"**



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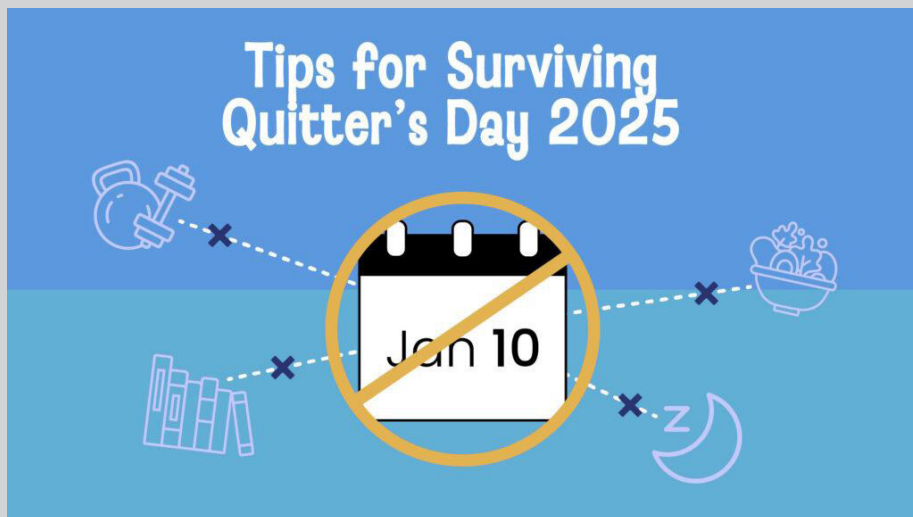
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A New Generation Of Service

2025: How We Can Defeat National Quitters Day ...

"ive us THIS DAY our DAILY bread(emphasis added)" - Matthew 6:11



Credit: Chesapeake Health Care

Q: Did you participate in the annual National Quitters Day last Friday, January 10?

Read 'Em and Weep - or LEAP, . . .

- Only eight percent of Americans kept their New Year's resolutions throughout the year;
- Three in 10 Americans made a resolution in 2024; and
- Most of us don't make it past the second Friday in January, known as National QUITTERS DAY - January 10, 2025 - National Today.

(Jesus): Therefore, become an 8%-er - One Day at a Time!

Making new resolutions and setting such goals are commendable when done right. You and I can maintain our resolutions and goals if we follow Jesus' instructions to his disciples: simply change the one-word counsel he offered them referenced above: "Give us THIS DAY our DAILY bread."

Most of us will likely make a New Year's resolution that we won't keep. Perhaps it's because we look too far ahead; instead, we should be looking for a more immediate goal such as "today".

It is not the year that we should be resolved to improve. Instead, we should work to improve the day right in front of us.

That's the type of guidance Jesus offered to his disciples when they asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray." He answered them with what we now call the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13.

Verse 11's seven words, "Give us THIS DAY our DAILY bread," can serve as our cure-all for making and then breaking New Year's resolutions. This prayer was to get his disciples (and now us) to focus primarily on the immediate - the ignorance of which starts most of our failings. It's in the immediate that we discover our greatest gift.

Our Greatest Gift in 2025

The greatest gift we have is today - which is why it's called "the present." Or, stated otherwise, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it," Psalm 118:24.

Let's all begin 2025 with a new resolution - but NOT for the year ending December 31, 2025, but with a New Day's Resolution - even perhaps starting on today!

Trust me, it works, or as retired German and folklore professor Wolfgang Mieder once wrote, "life is hard by the yard, but a cinch by the inch!"



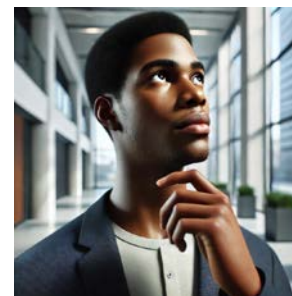
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Choose to Win, with Choices ...

Valley Weekly Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

When you wake up in the morning, you can go to the kitchen and decide which breakfast you want to partake of to nourish yourself. You can then walk into your closet, pick the outfit you like, mixing it up to keep things fresh. You are able to choose hairstyles, well, some of us, if you still have some hair left, and even if you don't, there are always "options" (wink, wink). You also have the option of choosing which path you are taking to school or work.



The point is, in life, you have many choices.

Isn't that a blessing? You can choose to make good choices or bad ones. You can choose not to make a choice at all. Isn't that an oxymoron? When making one (a choice), be intentional. Make sound decisions. When given a chance, especially if there is time to decide,

think about the opportunities and the potential outcome. Think about who it affects and if those affects will be positive or negative.

Making good choices today lays the foundation for a better and brighter tomorrow. Every decision YOU make shapes your future. You are in control! So, embrace the opportunity to act with intention, prioritize your goals, and take steps that will lead you to success. It's all in your hands! It's your choice. Choose to win!

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; *open it.*

BMW of Birmingham

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The Valley Weekly
VALLEY
EVENTS
 HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

January 16
 Historian William Hampton, Museum Curator
 Latham Church "Elderberries" Event
 RSVP is REQUIRED to office@lathamchurchhsv.org NO LATER THAN Sunday, January 12 109 Weatherly Road Huntsville, Ala.
 11 a.m.

Saturn Ballroom
 Huntsville, Ala.
 8 a.m.

January 25
 "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus" - LIVE!
 Mars Music Hall
 Von Braun Center
 Huntsville, Ala.

January 25-26

January 17-18
 "Corey Holcomb" Comedy Standup
 LeVity Live
 2012 Memorial Parkway SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 Times: Vary

January 20
 40th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast
 Von Braun Center



Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held on the 1st floor of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Southern Volleyball Tournaments
 South Hall
 Von Braun Center

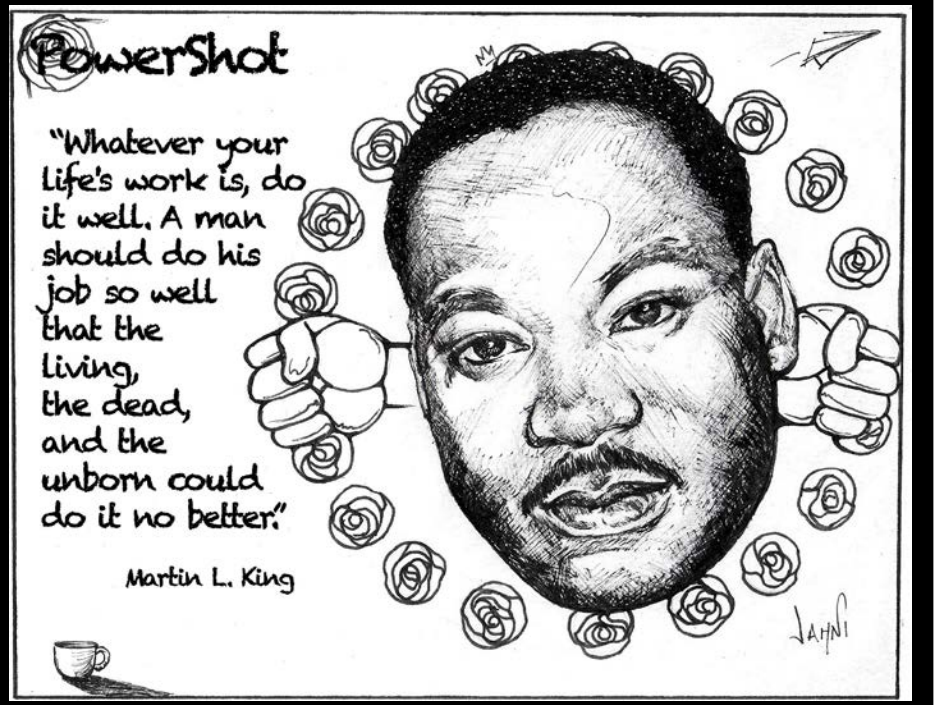
January 26
 "Mojo Brookzz" Comedy Standup
 LeVity Live
 2012 Memorial Parkway SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 Times: Vary

January 29
 AEW Dynamite
 AEW Collision
 AEW Tix.com

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

HMBCC Meetings

The Huntsville Metro Black Chamber of Commerce promotes, creates and fosters economic development opportunities. HMBCC meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon. Call (256) 427-2650 or e-mail info@hsvblack-chamber.org. VISIT



"We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

- T. S. Eliot



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

Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford

Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford is recognized as one of the most scholarly musicians in the United States. Her versatility as lecturer, performer, author, conductor and teacher are widely respected and honored. As the Director of University Choir at Alabama A&M University (AAMU) for 40 years, she brought an unprecedented standard of distinction to the AAMU Choir.

She initiated the Annual Christmas Musicale at AAMU in 1948, elevating it from a Christmas concert to a full production. Under her leadership, the Christmas Musicale became a beloved holiday tradition for hundreds of families and individuals throughout the North Alabama region.

Mrs. Bradford's teaching was designed to challenge her students to achieve their maximum potential, and she demanded excellence from the classroom to the performance stage. Thus, the University Choir traveled and performed at many functions in the local community and various cities, consistently receiving high ratings.

Mrs. Bradford received her degrees from Sherwood Music School

in Chicago, where she received the Bachelor of Music; Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Oberlin College, where she earned the Master of Music; and she pursued additional studies with Madeline Marshall (a specialist in English diction); with Maxine Lagerstrom of Chicago Musical College; and Oakland University in Michigan under the oversight of Robert Shaw, who music critics often regard as one of the greatest choral conductors in the world.

Her professional teaching experiences include assignments in the public-school system of Edwardsville, Illinois; Baltimore, Maryland; and at Leland College in Baker, Louisiana.

She arrived at Huntsville in the 1940s for the first time to teach music in the laboratory high school of Alabama A&M Institute. At AAMU, she was an Associate Professor and the Director of the University Choir. As a gracious steward of her God-given musical ability, she served for more than three decades as Director of Music Ministry at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church, serving as primary pianist



and choir director.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Bradford has been an active leader and member in several organizations. Some of her past and current affiliations include founding member, The Society of Professional Women; charter member, Huntsville Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and member, National Association of Choral Directors.

For her contributions and service to mankind, she has received scores of awards, honors, citations and resolutions.

Mrs. Bradford is the widow of the late Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. The mother of two children, Dr. Andrea Bradford and Dr. Henry Lane Bradford, she also has one grandson, Dr. Henry Lane Bradford, Jr.



"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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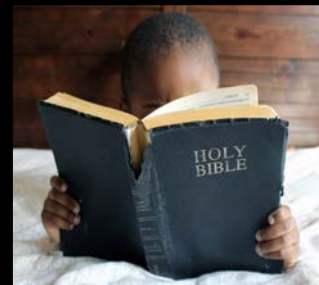
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168974

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Second Sunday
After the
Epiphany



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 36:5-10

Second Lesson:

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

GOSPEL:

John 2:1-11



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the Magic on
the Mountain!

No matter what time of year you explore Burritt on the Mountain, there is something delightful and new to see. And no matter how young – or old – you are, there is something for you on the Mountain! If you've never visited, you're in for a treat. If it's been awhile, what are you waiting for? Come on up and let the Magic begin!

3101 Burritt Drive • Huntsville, Alabama 35801 • 256.536.2882

www.burrittonthemountain.com

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

BLACK TIE GALA

AAMU Making Early Preparations for 25th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser This Spring

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities for the 25th Annual Alabama A&M University Black Tie Scholarship Gala are available now!

This premiere AAMU fundraising event supports talented students who demonstrate a financial need and recognizes alumni, friends, and organizations who help sustain the University's mission.

The 25th Anniversary of the event will be high-

lighted by recognition of Normal Legacy Society donors and a performance by a world-renowned musical artist.

Get sponsorship information and tickets by clicking [HERE](#).

This year's Gala is



part of the Sesquicentennial celebration which commemorates the rich heritage and bold future of Alabama A&M University.

The 150th anniversary is grounded in a campaign to raise sup-

port for three key AAMU priorities: campus improvements, STEM infrastructure, and scholarships. This year, Alabama A&M is raising \$15 million from alumni and friends - a

new record for the University - as part of the overarching campaign to generate \$150 million in support of AAMU.

All Black Tie Gala ticket purchases and sponsorships support the scholarship component of the campaign. Learn more about the 150th Anniversary Campaign at www.aamu.edu/150.

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Introducing ...

**The Rosetta James Foundation
19th Annual "Honoring Our Elders" Gala**

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The Rosetta James Foundation is a registered 509(a)(2) Public Charity and educational organization founded for the sole purposes of providing scholarships to deserving students and recognizing the contributions of the elderly in the community while promoting volunteerism and community outreach.

Saturday, March 8, 2025

The Jackson Center
6001 Moquin Drive (Cummings Research Park)
Huntsville, Alabama

12 noon

www.rosettajamesfoundation.org

THEY ARE LIKE US: The David Dixon and Rhoda Abernathy Barley Family

BRENDA BARLEY CHUNN

The name Rhoda means rose and a rose is said to be the most precious flower, precious in many ways. Soon to be the matriarch of the Barley family, Rhoda Barley, “Big Mama” as she was affectionately known in the family embodied the true essence of her name’s meaning. The photograph shows her and Papa Dave with many of the sixteen children they raised to young adulthood, family friends and a new generation of family under foot and emerging. She had no idea what lay ahead but they had laid a careful, faith filled foundation to deal with it. Like many in the Huntsville community, they were just like us!

Upon his passing, Papa Dave left his family, community and hometown better than he found them. When his widow Rhoda as-

sumed the helm of the family and was tasked to husband the family resources, relocate the family from Pond Beat to Huntsville, she flawlessly fulfilled the tasks. Rhoda Barley set a tone of positive expectation and benefit to her family facing the future.

During the 1930’s, when the country was experiencing the Great Depression, WW II and the complexity of Black’s in America, the Black community was hit especially hard. While resources were scarce, self reliance and pride were particularly high. There was a climate where some Black’s could experience greater benefit of their labor and access to some greater educational opportunities. The Barley Farm at Pond Beat was sold and Big Mama took the opportunity to divide



family resources fairly and to the interest of all of her sixteen children.

There were those who wanted to farm, those who wanted to become entrepreneurs and those who wanted to pursue education, and wives wanted to support their husbands or brothers. How wonderful to have a mother who supported all the dreams of her children, speaking to the desires of their hearts. Her sons, Earl and Dudley, were drafted into WWII. After the war ended, Earl now married

to Ruth Washington, organized and supported the establishment of the Wilson, Tate and Jones VFW Post honoring and remembering three friends lost in the war. He continued his studies at AA&M College and along with other family members, worked to develop a thriving Black community in Huntsville. There are families in Huntsville who want the very best for their offspring, they make sacrificial decisions and allocate resources for their good and the good of others, they were just

like us.

The disruptions of WW II were to family and the larger community. Many male staff of the William Hooper Councill High School were drafted to the war and female teachers took over the leadership of the first publicly funded High School for Black students in Huntsville City. The first publicly funded High School in the County was also named for William Councill. William Hooper Councill was the founder of the land grant Alabama A&M College now University. Pulaski Pike and Magnolia Terrace were the locations of most early Black public educational leaders in Huntsville and Madison County with institutions like Toney School, West End, Farmers Capital, ASFL, and Wm. H. Councill High School. Attaining credentials,

demonstrating capacity had taken hold.

Many Huntsville families built their capacity and established their ability to perform at a certain level. As long as it was for the well being of the community, they were just like us.

Big Mama managed her extended family following the move from Pond Beat. The offspring had established sixteen households in Huntsville, Nashville and Chattanooga. The second Barley generation was up and coming.

New credentials were being pursued, new occupational patterns were being established and contributions were being made. The changes taking place were world changes. The Barley family kept pace as did many Huntsville families - for the greater good. They were just like us.

Huntsville Mayor Appoints New DEI Director



The City’s Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Office (ODEI) will soon be under new leadership following Mayor Tommy Battle’s appointment of Dr. Randy Barbour, Jr., as the new director.

Dr. Barbour’s appointment received unanimous approval from the City Council at its Thursday, January 9 meeting.

Dr. Barbour, who previ-

ously served as assistant professor of psychology at Alabama A&M University, brings extensive experience from positions held at the Harris Home for Children, North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence and The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

The City conducted a nationwide search to find its new full-time director.

“Dr. Barbour will bring a fresh perspective on an

office with a simple but critical mission, to make life better for everyone,” said Mayor Tommy Battle. “We are looking forward to his leadership and vision.”

As ODEI director, Dr. Barbour will continue the office’s mission of developing partnerships and programs and providing services in collaboration with local City agencies to create a vibrant and inclu-

sive community where all people feel appreciated and valued.

“I am honored to accept the appointment as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the City of Huntsville,” Dr. Barbour said. “As a lifelong resident, I understand the importance of ensuring that every member of our community has access to the opportunities that

come with Huntsville’s growth and prosperity. I am grateful to Mayor Battle for entrusting me with this vital role and would like to thank Mr. Kenny Anderson and Ms. Brenda Martin for laying a strong foundation. My goal is to build upon their efforts and continue moving the needle forward for the development and success of our city.”

- Huntsvilleal.gov

The Huntsville Area Association of REALTORS (HAAR) and the Valley Multiple Listing Service Installation, Charity Ball & Gala in Support of CJ3 Foundation

The Jackson Center, Huntsville, Ala. - January 4, 2025



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s "Day of Service" - Huntsville Alumnae Chapter -

The Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center
Monday, January 13, 2025 - 9 a.m.-12 noon (Photos by Jerome Saintjones)



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