

AAMU Launches 'First-Gen Fridays' - p. 9

FREE



Shamika Minisee

EDITOR: 'The King Question' - p. 3



Scenes from UNITY BREAKFAST - p. 10

Friday
January 24, 2025
Vol. 11, No. 21
ValleyWeeklly.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Laura B. Clift

"All peoples are entangled in the net of the world market." - C.L.R. James

South Precinct HPD to Host 'Coffee with Captain'

Start your Saturday morning, January 25, with coffee, doughnuts and community connection!

Join Huntsville Police South Precinct Commander, Capt. Riley, and fellow Huntsville Police Department officers for an engaging and informal conversation.

Meet at 7900 Bailey Cove Road

SE from 9-11 a.m. This free event is open to everyone



and offers a chance to share ideas,

voice concerns and strengthen neighborhood bonds.

Enjoy delicious treats from Dunkin' and Bigfoot's Little Doughnuts while fostering meaningful dialogue about the community.

Looking forward to seeing you there! RSVP <https://tinyurl.com/462cm848>

DOJ Reports on Tulsa Race Massacre

Had the "robust" civil rights laws in effect today been around back in 1921, then federal prosecutors "could have" pursued hate crimes against the perpetrators of the Tulsa Race Massacre that occurred over 100 years ago.

That was the conclusion of a Department of Justice report released recently among a sea of turbulent news last week, including raging California fires.

The DOJ's white flag strengthens a Martin Luther King, Jr. adage from his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*: "Justice too long delayed is justice denied." - J. Saintjones See **REPORT**.



Harrison Center Begins 'Chicago Stepping'

Get ready to step into style at the Harrison Center with the all-new Chicago Stepping class on Mondays, starting Jan. 27.

Chicago Stepping is a smooth and rhythmic partner dance that's all about connection, confidence, and groove. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just looking to try something new, this class is perfect for all skill levels.

Learn the fundamentals of Chicago Stepping from experienced instructors. Improve your coordination, rhythm, and confidence on the dance floor. Meet new friends and enjoy a fun, social atmosphere. Visit theharrisoncenter.org.

Webinar Will Highlight NASA HBCU Internships

An information webinar will provide key details on NASA internship opportunities for HBCU/MSI students.

The information session will be

Friday, January 30, 2025, at 5 p.m. CST.

RSVP by Friday, January 24, by reaching the following points of contact below:

1) Aquita.s.wherry@

nasa.gov and/or 2) David.n.benjamin@nasa.gov.

For any additional questions, contact Sylvester Dorsey at airman01225@yahoo.com.

Civic Volunteer Joins ADA Call to Congress

Amanda Burns, a local civic volunteer, has been selected to attend the American Diabetes Association (ADA) Call to Congress scheduled March 3-4 in Wash-



ington, D.C.

The collective advocacy initiative aims to prevent and cure diabetes, as well as improve the lives of those affected by it.

'Art Tour of Homes' Set

On Saturday, January 25, Arts Huntsville opens the doors to five homes transformed into living galleries.

Join Huntsvillians from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Art Tour of Homes, presented by Valley MLS and supported by Floor & Décor, KPS Group, The Scout Guide, J. Hen-

ry Plumbing, and The Newberry and Reynolds Families.

The homes featured include:

- The Piedmont home of Sallie & Matt Denton
- The Five Points home of Megan & Darren Gessner
- The Five Points home of The Simōn Family

- The Five Points home of Debbie & Alex Tomlinson
- The Wakefield home of Beverly and Lou Weiner

Tourgoers may begin the tour at any of the five homes on the day of the event. Tickets (\$20) via artshuntsville.org the week of the event.



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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 were in session this week. The Senate voted to confirm Marco Rubio as the new Secretary of State and then completed work on the Laken Riley Act that would allow authorities to take custody of illegal aliens who commit theft-related crimes, such as shoplifting (the bill passed the House 2 weeks ago on a 264-159 vote, with 48 D's voting across the aisle). The Senate added 2 new members: Florida's Ashley Moody and Ohio's Jon Husted. The House this week took up a bill to ease environmental restrictions on logging, mining, and road building on federal lands and a bill to penalize healthcare practitioners with up to 5 years in jail

who fail to provide care for an infant that is born-alive from an abortion attempt.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. Donald Trump took the oath of office Monday at 12 noon EST in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, having canceled the outdoor ceremony and inaugural parade due to cold weather in D.C. He was expected to issue several executive orders Monday and met on Tuesday with House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) and other GOP leaders at the White House. The Washington Post reported Saturday that the new Border Czar Tom Homan was reconsidering whether to launch massive immigration raids in Chicago on Tuesday after preliminary details leaked out in a Friday Wall Street Journal

item but maintained that he may shift the initial raids to other cities and threatened to prosecute Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson if he tries to interfere in the mass roundups.

3. SUPREME COURT. Last Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld a federal law that required the TikTok app to shut down in the United States on Sunday, although access was restored a few hours later (though it wasn't available on Apple and Google's app stores throughout Sunday) after Donald Trump reportedly pledged to issue an executive order to extend the TikTok ban deadline for 90-days. Read the unsigned 19-page ruling here: [TikTok, Inc. v. Garland](#).

4. RECONCILIATION PLANS. Last Friday, the House Budget Committee released a 51-page list of potential budget Reconciliation instructions that would pay for the cost of the GOP's main agenda item this year to reauthorize the 2017 comprehen-

sive tax law, strengthen border security, and enact new energy policy. Last week, House Speaker Johnson told GOP House Members that he intends to send a final Reconciliation bill to the president by April 20.

5. EDUCATION. Last Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) reminding colleges and universities of their responsibilities to disclose and accurately

represent their partnerships with online program managers (OPMs). Partnerships with OPMs and other third-party service providers have been a significant focus for the Biden administration. In 2023, the ED released a comprehensive DCL that introduced new reporting and auditing requirements for all partnerships that could be classified as third-party service providers under a broader definition. However, the Biden administration later with-

drew this guidance due to implementation concerns raised by higher education groups. It remains uncertain whether the incoming Trump administration will maintain this new guidance.

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ON THIS DAY

On January 24, 1962, Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. The American professional baseball player became the first African-American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era. Robinson broke the color line when he started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947.

- BlackFacts.com/Wikipedia.org



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www.wjab.org


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**The Valley Weekly**

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	5x10 inches	
Fourth Page	Vertical	\$600
	10x5 inches	
Eighth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
	2.5x5 inches	
Sixteenth Page		\$150

The King Question ... Continuing the Spark Throughout '25

This week, we came together to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., both here in Huntsville and across the state and nation. This annual reflection on Dr. King's transformative work reminds us of the power of unity, justice, and service to others.

Locally, one of the most anticipated events is the Unity Breakfast, hosted by the men of the Delta Gamma Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (*see Page 10*). This gathering, recognized as one of the largest celebrations of its kind in the Southeast, will take place at the Von Braun Center in Downtown Huntsville. With a capacity crowd expected in the Saturn Hall, the event will undoubtedly be a testament to our community's dedication to honoring Dr. King's vision.



While the breakfast and other celebrations are powerful moments to reflect on the progress we've made, they also serve as a call to action. Dr. King once posed a question that continues to challenge us today: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

As the echoes of speeches and songs fade and the chairs in Saturn Hall are cleared away, we must each decide how we will respond to this question. Will we carry forward Dr. King's legacy through acts of service, advocacy, and compassion? Will we work to bridge divides and create a community that reflects the justice and equality he envisioned?

Let this year's celebration be more than a moment—let it spark a *movement*. As we honor Dr. King's memory, may we also honor his mission by taking steps, large and small, to make a difference in the lives of others.

The choice is ours. How will you answer?

Until next week ...

Dorothy



JANUARY 24 - WILLIAM ALLEN YOUNG - William Allen Young is an American actor and director who has starred in over 100 television, stage, and film projects, including two Academy Award-nominated films, *A Soldier's Story* and *District 9*. He is best known for his roles as Frank Mitchell on UPN's *Moesha*, Dr. Rollie Guthrie on the CBS medical drama *Code Black*, and as Judge Joseph Ratner on CBS's *CSI Miami*. His other television credits include ABC's *The Day After*, *General Hospital*, CBS's *Madame Secretary*, *JAG*, *Atlanta Child Murders*, and *The Women of Brewster Place*, among other shows. He is also credited with helping to diversify the ranks of writers, actors, directors and producers in Hollywood through the landmark 2000 TV Network Agreement.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



THE VALLEY WEEKLY
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DEATHS**



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Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MR. ROBERT ERVIN, SR.** (b. 1946); **MR. TERENCE DAVIS** (b. 1985); **MS. KATHY WELSEY** (b. 1955); and **MR. MICHAEL AMMARGON** (b. 1945).



Funeral service for **MS. COKILIUS MARSHALL** (b. 1982) will be Saturday, January 25, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel at 1 p.m.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for **MR. VERNON WAYNE WHITE** (b. 1983) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MR. WILLIE CLIFF, JR.** (b. 1963) will be Saturday, January 25, at 1 p.m. at Nelms Memorial Chapel with Pastor Trevor Briggs officiating.



Funeral service for **MR. GEORGE LYON BONE** (b. 1936) was Wednesday, January 22, at Consolidated Flint River and Running Water Primitive Baptist Tabernacle with Rev. Edward Anderson, officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. LAURA MCDADE CHALK** (b. 1946) was Tuesday, January 21, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Carolyn Landry, officiating and Rev. Earla S. Lockhart, Eulogist.

Memorial service for **MRS. SOPHIA FELIX JONES** (b. 1946) was Sunday, January 19, at Mount Calvary Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Funeral service for **MR. ANTONIO BRAXTON POWELL** was Saturday, January 18, at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Oscar Montgomery, officiating.

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Funeral services for **MR. ROY HAYES** (b. 1949); **MS. CHRISTEN C. HOLDEN** (b. 1981); and **MRS. VIRGINIA DOUGLAS MITCHELL** (b. 1959) will be announced at a later date.



Funeral service for **MS. EARLINE WOODS** (b. 1955) will be 12 noon on Saturday, January 25, at Royal Chapel of Memories

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



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:
"Who's on First?"

Matthew 6:33 says, *"But, seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

One of the things we need to realize is that God demands to be first in our lives. When we put Him first, it establishes His importance in our lives. If God is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord *at all* when it comes to our lives. For example, if watching football is first in your life, then football is lord of your life. If shopping is first in your life, then shopping is lord of your life. If your job and your money are first in your life, then your job and your money are lords of your life.

Now Lord is translated as *Adonai*, which is equivalent to ruler or master. If these things are ruling over your lives, then you have entered a dangerous place that is not God's will for your life. Anytime our will becomes greater than God's will for our lives, the result will be separation from God. That's why it is important that we seek Him first so things don't get out of hand.

Now the definition of being first is preceding all others in time and in order of importance. That's why God demands

to be first, because He has blessed us so much. Always remember that total obedience produces total reward. Whatever we decide to seek first will always determine the quality of our lives.

Matthew 6:21 reminds us that "where your treasure is there your heart will be also." Those who place God first also have hearts that want to please Him.

May God grant you spiritual success in choosing the very best for your life.



Question: What things do you value the most in your life?

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:
"Strength from Weakness"

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A New Generation Of Service

Monday, January 20, 2025: from Capitol Hill's Kamala to College Football's "Kamala"! (Part 1 of 2)

"But he (Jesus) said, 'she is not dead, she is asleep,' and they laughed at him." - Matthew 9:24

Farewell to Kamala Harris 101

At noon on Monday, January 20, Vice President Kamala Harris concluded her historic tenure as the highest-ranking woman of color in U.S. history.



Original Artwork by Jerry Ross, commissioned by Tim Allston

Introducing "Kamala Harris 102"

Just seven hours and 700 miles later in Atlanta, another trailblazer made history. Marcus Freeman, head coach of Notre Dame, became the first person of



color to lead a team in the College Football Playoff National Championship. Both Harris and Freeman share a unique heritage as the children of African American fathers and Asian mothers.

On this momentous day, coinciding with the celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s National Holiday, it's crucial that we recognize these milestones for what they are—pivotal moments in American culture. To move

forward, we must resist the urge to reduce Harris and her achievements to a fleeting chapter in history.

Breaking Free from America's "Fast Food" Culture

Our culture has a bad habit of prematurely dismissing trailblazers. Consider the stories of ukulele sensation Tiny Tim, baseball's Bo Belinsky, NFL star Brian Bosworth, and 1964 Republican vice-presidential nominee William E. Miller—each treated as a passing phenomenon. (Miller's reputation even became the punchline of a famous "Do You Know Me?" American Express ad in the 1980s, William E. Miller American Express Commercial!)

As Americans, we must avoid consigning Kamala Harris to this same fate. Though 75 million of us may have seen our votes defeated in the 2024 election, it's time to rally behind "Kamala Harris 102." We need to champion the next generation of leaders of color, individuals like Marcus Freeman, and continue building on Harris's legacy as an icon of progress.

Learning from Elvis: A Blueprint for Legacy

Harris's historic campaign and achievements deserve the same reverence that Elvis Presley's fans have shown him since his death in 1977. Like Elvis, her legacy can—and should—be nurtured and celebrated by:

1. Preserving her contributions and impact.
2. Keeping her spirit alive in our collective consciousness.

In Part 2, I'll explore a provocative question: *Could Kamala Harris become "Elvis 2.0"?*



Tim Allston
Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time
Amazon Best-Selling Author
"Leading from the Middle"

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Wikimedia/Public Domain

Leave It! ...

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Yeah, you aren't going to want to hear this, but I'm going to say it! You cannot progress and get to what is designed for you because you persist!

Yep, I said it, and I mean it. We hold onto so much. Past problems, pain, disappointments, old friends, old relationships, the way something used to make us feel, whether good or bad. We are so persistent. Holding steadfast to memories. So much so, we can't get ahead. We're just allowing hurt feelings and childhood friends' recollections of who we used to be, and basing our future on what they believe



we have the ability to do, based on prior circumstances, to determine our future outcomes. How crazy does that sound?

Move away from there, and that! You failed before! We all have! Let it go. You

got divorced. Ok, well, that's over. He/she cheated. Ok, so don't be with them and be mindful of what you choose in the future. But no. You have to go back and keep reliving it. You have to keep being mindful of what they are doing now. Which is none of your concern. Stop!! You keep holding on to failed ventures. Saying, "I just can't do it because my last try wasn't a success! 'So what, what did you learn?' Fix it and press on!

A pastor said, "You will not find destiny without departure!" Whew! That is so powerful and so Bible! It's all through the book! Do not be afraid to let go and move away from people, places, and things, and get closer to your destiny.

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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

January 25

"Men Are from Mars,
Women Are from Venus"
- LIVE!

Mars Music Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

January 25-26

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.

January 30-February 1

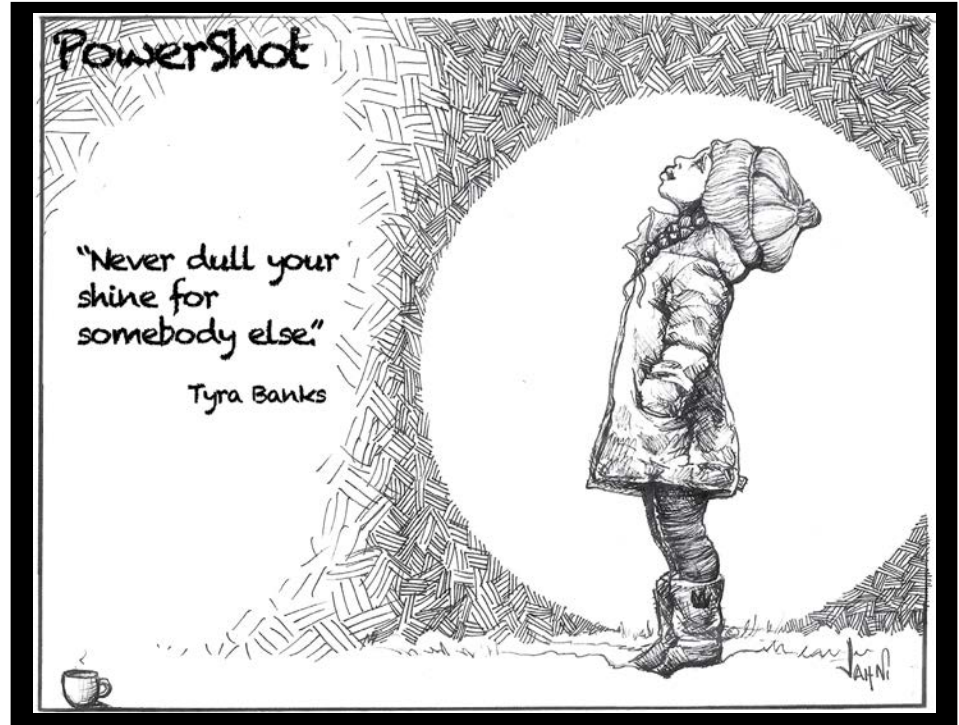
"Godfrey"
Comedy Standup
Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.
Times: Vary

January 31-February 2

Alabama RV Show
VBC South Hall
Huntsville, Ala.

February 2

Harlem Globetrotters
2025 World Tour
Propst Arena



"The strength of the scientific establishment in any country is related to its general level of education, not only in supplying large numbers of eager minds for further training, but also in ensuring a public opinion that holds science in esteem and approves financial support."

- Sir W. Arthur Lewis

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

Mrs. Laura B. Ford Clift

Mrs. Laura B. Ford Clift is the eldest of five children born to the union of Charlie Ed Ford and Ida B. Braggs. Born in Huntsville, Alabama, "Laura B," as she is so affectionately known by her family, was educated at West Huntsville Junior High School during her formative years in grades one through eight. Afterwards, she attended Councill Training High School, Normal, Alabama, and graduated from William Hooper Council High School in Huntsville. It was at William Hooper Council High School that she met Gene Arnold Clift. Both graduated the same year and later enrolled at Alabama A&M College (now AAMU), and then married on July 16, 1958. Clift received the Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a minor in mathematics in spring 1964. She later pursued and completed requirements for the Master of Science degree in guidance and counseling and psychology, as well as K-12 certification in administration from her Alma Mater.

Mrs. Clift began her profession as a fourth-grade teacher at Councill Training School (1964-

66). She later transferred to a different position in the Madison County School System at Farmer's Capital Junior High in Meridianville, Alabama, where she taught science and math for 11 years. In 1975, Mrs. Clift transitioned to the Huntsville City School System and accepted her first assignment as guidance counselor at Davis Hills Middle School in Huntsville, Alabama. There, she became the first African-American female counselor at this location following desegregation. After 15 years, she became the first African-American guidance counselor at Huntsville High School. Following four years, she moved to the Annie C. Merts Center, the Huntsville City Schools administrative office, as the system's drug education coordinator. Embracing her love for educating youth, Clift accepted a position as first female assistant principal at Ed White Middle School. She remained in that position until her retirement in 2004.

More than 60 years ago, Clift began her pilgrimage with the Lakeside United Methodist Church, following her marriage to her late



husband Gene, who was also a native son of Lakeside. Since that time and throughout the seasons of her life, she has held numerous positions at her church.

Currently, she is a church historian (20 years) and certified lay servant/lay speaker of the United Methodist Church, president of the local Mary Binford Jordan group of United Methodist Women Organization at Lakeside, member of the finance committee and chair of the Council on Ministries.

Her examples of diligent service can be found among her previous affiliations with Girls Incorporated of Huntsville (board member); Huntsville-Madison County AIDS Board of the Madison County Health Department; and countless others.

"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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This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Third Sunday

After the
Epiphany



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

Second Lesson:

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

GOSPEL:

Luke 4:14-21



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November–March: Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 4pm & Sunday: noon – 4pm

NOTES OF A NATIVE SON

EMBRACING THE JOURNEY

by afroblastik [John 'Jahni' Moore]

Last week, a snow-storm blanketed the East Coast, transforming familiar landscapes into frosty white humps. At the same time, we bore witness to newsreels of wild fires raging in California. The entire picture is a stark reminder of our divided literal and metaphorical climates. It's hard not to see the symbolism: two extremes, mirroring the polarization of our times.

In the aftermath of the storm, we decided to embrace the weather and hit the great outdoors. We had actually been hoping for snow. When we get it in my neck of the woods, it's generally in celebration. The air was crisp, and the fresh snow muffled the world around us. This offered a rare stillness around our voices of laughter as we

sculpted snow creatures then armed ourselves with snowmunition and went to war. The day was escaping so we called a truce and took off hiking. As the group trudged ahead, I hung back taking in the scene: the path we carved through the snow, my family in motion, and the destination up ahead. It struck me then how much this mirrored life itself. Yes, I do think a lot, even at times like this. So often, we fixate on where we're going—the summit, the goal, the resolution—that we forget to savor where we are in the moment. Each step becomes a task rather than a part of the experience. And yet, those steps are where the magic happens. The crunch of snow underfoot, the shimmer of sunlight breaking through snow-heavy



branches, and the sound of my youngest daughter's voice asking how much longer—these moments are the journey.

And then there are the tracks we leave be-

hind. Looking at the trail behind them, I thought about the impression we make for others who watch us, who come after us. Our choices, our actions, and even our mistakes make paths

that guide, hinder, or inspire those who follow. The clarity of a single set of tracks through fresh snow can be reassuring, a beacon for others to navigate unknown terrain. This perspective feels especially relevant in our current world, where extremes—both in weather and in society—seem to dominate. Fires and storms, division and connection. In such times, our steps and our awareness of them matter more than ever. The way we walk—with care, intention, and respect—can influence not only our journey but the paths and way we forge for others.

So as we move forward, let's challenge ourselves to make the most of where we are. Make the most of today. Pause to admire the view, acknowledge the

effort it takes to keep moving, and be mindful of the impact we leave in our wake. Whether we're navigating snow or fire, literal or figurative, we really do have the power to shape the journey—for ourselves and for those who follow. With due diligence the destination will come soon enough. But it's the trail we carve and the tracks we leave that tell the real story. The map will be here long after we've gone where we went.



More Tips on Safeguarding Your Pets from The Valley's Winter Weather

As you prepare for the forecasted winter weather, Huntsville Animal Services is urging pet owners to take extra precautions to ensure their pets stay safe and comfortable.

“A good rule of thumb is that if it's too cold for us, it's too cold for pets outside,” said Huntsville Animal Services Direc-

tor John Fischer. “Winter weather can be as challenging for pets as for people. Following these tips, pet owners can keep their furry family members safe, warm and healthy, no matter how cold it gets.”

Bring pets inside. Even short indoor breaks can help pets warm up during extreme cold.

Consider using coats or sweaters to provide extra warmth for outdoor activities.

Provide proper outdoor shelter. If pets must remain outside, ensure their doghouse complies with city ordinances. It should have four sides, a roof and floor, and maintain temperatures above 40°F. Insulate with straw

or woodchips rather than hay, which retains moisture. Warming lamps can also help, but use lamps cautiously to avoid fire hazards.

Monitor health. Check for signs of hypothermia or frostbite, including shivering, lethargy, stiff muscles or discolored gums. If symptoms appear, seek

veterinary care immediately.

Fresh food and water. Pets burn more calories trying to stay warm, so provide extra food and ensure water is fresh and unfrozen.

Limit outdoor time. Limit walks and playtime outside to prevent overexposure to the cold.

Clean up antifreeze

spills. Antifreeze is toxic to pets, so promptly clean spills and store chemicals safely.

For more information on pet safety during extreme weather, call Animal Services at 256-883-3782, visit HuntsvilleAL.gov/Animal or visit their Facebook page to learn more.

AAMU Launches 'First-Gen Fridays' with 2004 Alumna

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) has announced the launch of its Spring 2025 First-Gen Fridays series, starting with an impactful session on "Overcoming Imposter Syndrome" led by accomplished first-generation alumna Shamika Minisee. This event will take place on Friday, January 24, at 3:00 p.m. in Buchanan Hall Auditorium.



Minisee, a 2004 graduate in business administration from St. Louis, is the CEO and Co-Founder of Presidential Concrete LLC and the Minisee Group Consulting Firm based in Huntsville, Alabama. Her journey from

first-generation college student to successful entrepreneur is a testament to resilience and determination. During her talk, she will share personal insights and actionable strategies to help students combat feelings of self-doubt and embrace their full potential.

First-Gen Fridays are designed to create a supportive community for first-generation students at AAMU, fostering a sense of belonging while

promoting engagement, retention, and academic success. These monthly sessions provide opportunities for students to connect with peers, as well as first-generation faculty and staff, while gaining access to valuable resources, programs, and services.

"Everyone, especially first-generation students, occasionally feels out of their depth," says OMA

Executive Director Dr. Pamela Little. "When exploring unfamiliar areas, it's natural to feel overwhelmed. For some, this feeling persists and causes them to question their abilities, skills, and accomplishments – a phenomenon known as Imposter Syndrome. This challenge is particularly common among individuals from underrepresented and minority groups, and address-

ing it is key to unlocking their potential."

Little encourages all first-generation students to attend this kick-off session to gain valuable insights and connect with a community that understands their journey. The Spring 2025 series will also feature sessions on "Landing an Internship," "Financial Literacy," and "Post-Graduation Planning."

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Monday, January 20, 2025 - Von Braun Center Saturn Ballroom - Huntsville, Ala.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Clifton Davis

