

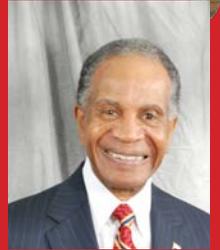
City Hall Public Art Tour Dates Expanded - p. 9

FREE

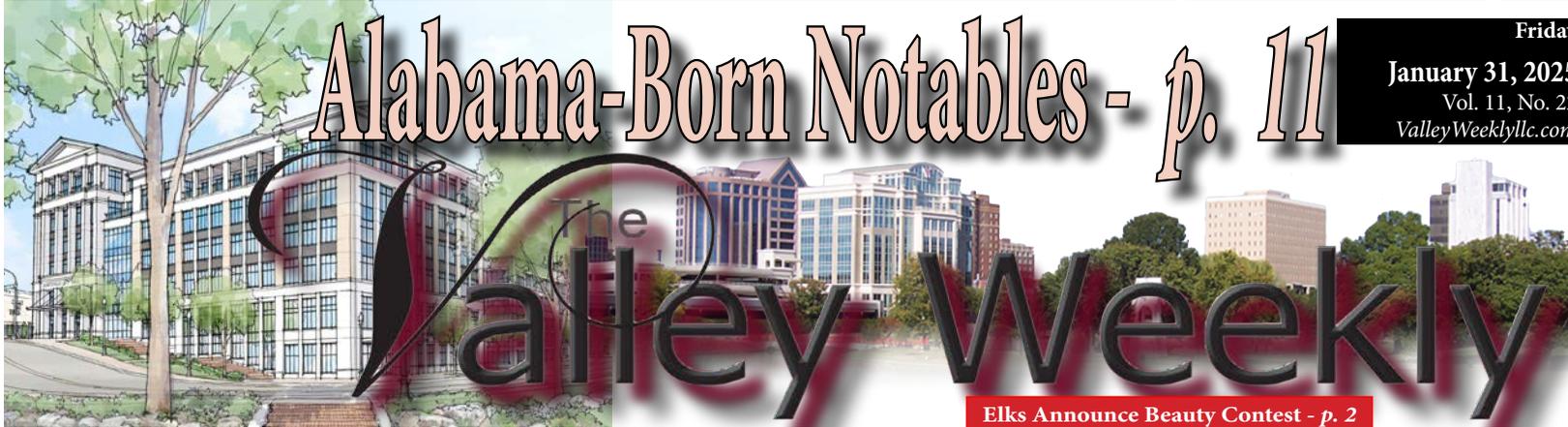
Alabama-Born Notables - p. 11

Friday
January 31, 2025
Vol. 11, No. 22
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Dr. Marvin P. Carroll



Elks Announce Beauty Contest - p. 2

“The most luxurious possession, the richest treasure anybody has, is his personal dignity.” - Jackie Robinson

Camellia Fest Brings Packed Lineup to Rocket City

The Camellia Music & Arts Festival, scheduled April 25-27, is poised to take Huntsville to a new level at The Orion Amphitheater.

The three-day

fest will feature Kehlani, Gucci Mane, J.I.D, and Big Boi.

Other entertainment entrees include Amaria, BLack pARty, PAME, Mick Jen-

kins, along with Chelsea, Who?, Element Xi, DJ Carl, DJ Zach Alan, DJ Donye West, Dray the Voice, Jazz McKenzie, Meme B Jones, O’Rian, Pat Jamar,



Rachelle Shire, Soy and Tesha Jay.

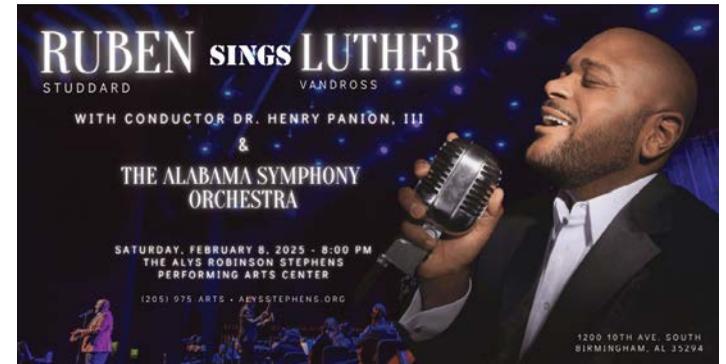
For additional information and tickets, click [HERE](#).

AAMU Alums Prepare for Valentine’s Day Concert

Alabama A&M University alumni Ruben Studdard (American Idol winner) and conductor Henry Panion, III will team for a salute to pop superstar Luther Vandross in a special Valentine’s Day concert.

The “Ruben Sings Luther” concert will be held Saturday, February 8, at the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center in Birmingham, Ala., at 8 p.m.

Dr. Panion will conduct the



Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and the event will feature classic hits by the music legend, along with lush orchestrations produced by Dr. Panion. Dubbed

the Velvet Teddy Bear by R&B legend Gladys Knight, Ruben will present a masterful performance of love songs made famous by the Pop music icon,

including such hits “A House is Not a Home,” “Superstar,” “Here and Now,” and “Stop to Love.” For ticket information, visit [alys-stephens.org](#).

Von Braun Center Propst Arena Implements New Bag Policy

Effective March 1, 2025, the Von Braun Center will implement a new Bag Policy for Propst Arena which regulates the size and type of bags that may be brought into the arena.

Following other

entertainment and event venues that have seen success with this type of bag policy, the VBC looks forward to providing a faster, more efficient entry process for guests attending events at

the Arena!

Clear Bags must be under 12”x12”x6” and made of plastic, vinyl or PVC. No colored tinting or obstructive patterns or pieces that conceal any part of the clear bag. **Non-**

Clear Bags must be under 5”x7”. ANY type of non-clear bag exceeding 5”x7” will NOT be permitted inside arena. No outside food or drink, weapons, pets, strollers nor cameras.

TVW Columnist Launches Weekly “The Tim Allston Show” Livestreams

After seven years of publishing print-and digital-only columns in The Valley Weekly, <http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com/>, contributing editor Tim Allston

will now expand those writings into “The Tim Allston Show,” his weekly

livestream on Facebook <https://bit.ly/4hixVPk>, Youtube, [Live with Restream](#), January 20 and soon LinkedIn.

Each Monday at 6 p.m. CST, Allston will present current events and newsmakers



in the light of best practices from the Bible, by using video and still images, narration and text before a live audience.

“I continue to enjoy this editorial platform given to

me by The Valley Weekly,” he explained. Editor-publisher Dr. Dorothy W. Huston and Senior Editor Jerome Saintjones coached and guided me through publishing more than 350 weekly columns, for *See ALLSTON, p. 6*

The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

- Preston Brown’s “Spiritual Game Plan,” Page 4
- Gloria B. & Tim: Perspectives, Page 5
- “Jahn” Moore’s PowerShots, Page 6
- Sunday Lectionary, Page 7
- Honoring Our Elders, Page 7
- Washington Update, Page 10



See Page 2

Local Firm Creates Smooth Transitions for Teens on the Spectrum

The entirety of the teenage years are replete with challenge and emotions. One operation is working to offer options and solutions.

S Brown & Associates LLC is committed to transforming career and employment opportunities for young adults with intellectual disabilities, autism, as well as those on the spectrum. Its mission is to provide innovative solutions that empower individuals to achieve independence, to foster personal growth, and to unlock their full potential in the workforce.

Dr. Sharon Brown, CRC, serves as the CEO of the company, bringing a wealth of experience to her role. She holds a Ph.D. in rehabilitation education with a focus on cultural diversity and disability adjustment from The Ohio State University.

Brown has an impressive eight years of experience in



Dr. Sharon Brown

(IHE) and is a retiree with over 25 years as a tenured faculty member in higher education.

In recognition of her contributions to the IHE field, she received the 2022 NRCA National Citation Award. She is also the founder and former director of the first IHE program at a Historically Black College or

University (HBCU), making a significant impact as a trailblazer in this area.

Currently, Dr. Brown serves as the HBCU representative for the Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance (SEPSEA) IHE development group (2023) and holds the position of treasurer for the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association.

As a rehabilitation service scholar and practitioner, she is a nationally certified rehabilitation counselor (CRC) and provides consultation to colleges, universities, school personnel, and agency administrators.

The transition from high school to meaningful careers can be particularly challenging for young adults with intellectual disabilities, says Brown. Despite their unique skills and potential, they often face barriers such as limited access to tailored support, inadequate



job training programs, and societal misconceptions. These challenges contribute to high rates of unemployment and underemployment within this community.

Her company is dedicated to bridging this gap. By collaborating with businesses and services throughout the Tennessee Valley, S Brown & Associates LLC creates inclusive employment opportunities, provides personalized support, and designs pathways to sustainable and fulfilling

careers.

“Together, we can empower individuals and showcase the valuable contributions they bring to the workplace,” Brown says, adding that “Together, we can create a future where everyone can have the opportunity to thrive and make a lasting difference in our community. I

appreciate the community’s interest in our mission, and we look forward to exploring ways we can partner to achieve these goals.”

Dr. Brown urges The Valley Weekly readership, family members throughout the vicinity, as well as persons affiliated with various organizations that are interested in partnering with the firm or in learning more about its services, contact Dr. Brown at smbrown_141@hotmail.com.

Oak Street Health Begins Nutritional Cooking Class at Harrison Center

Join the Robert “Bob” Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center for the new Nutritional Cooking class.

The Center has announced the start of a brand-new partnership with Oak Street Health to bring the class every fourth Monday at 11 a.m. Learn how to prepare delicious, healthy meals that support your wellness goals.

This interactive class

will teach practical tips for creating balanced meals, exploring new recipes, and making nutritious eating easy and enjoyable. Whether you’re a seasoned cook or just starting, this class has something for everyone!

Don’t miss this opportunity. Join us every fourth Monday for this exciting addition to our lineup! Visit theharrisoncenter.org.

Elks Announce First Beauty and Talent Scholarship Contest



R. E. Nelms Elk Lodge and Temple of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World, Inc. (IBPOEW) will host their very first Miss Elks Beauty and Talent Scholarship Contest.

This event will take place on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the Omega Center in Huntsville, Ala., starting at 3 p.m. There are three distinct categories of competition:

Swimwear
Evening Gown
Talent

Contestants must be young ladies between the ages of 16 and 21.

Contest winners will receive a scholarship award and will go on to represent R. E. Nelms Lodge and Temple in the state (Alabama) and possibly the National Competition scheduled in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This is a progressive competition totaling a scholarship award of \$10,000. This event is open to the public.

For more information, please contact Daughter

Rebecca Malone, Beauty & Talent Directress, at (256) 479-2295 or by e-mail: renelms1127@gmail.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING HUNTSVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY (HHA)

HHA will hold a Virtual Public Hearing on **Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** to receive input for the **FY2025 Agency Annual Plan, Capital Fund Budget and the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP)**. The listed plans are in accordance with the Quality Housing Act of 1998. Draft plans can be viewed on HHA’s website (www.hsvha.org) and at the following location: HHA’s Administrative Office, 200 Washington St., Huntsville, AL 35801.

Submit comments to Turkessa Coleman Lacey, Huntsville Housing Authority, 200 Washington St., Huntsville, AL 35801 or tcoleman@hsvha.org. Deadline for comments is March 20, 2025. For more information regarding this public notice or to request special accommodations, please call (256) 532-5623. Hearing or speech impaired residents are encouraged to use the TDD line at 1-800-545-1833, ext. 903 for requests. To connect to the Public Hearing on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., please use the following link:

<https://hsvha.org/event/notice-of-public-hearing/>



The Valley Weekly

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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
Half Page	Horizontal	\$600
	5x10 inches	
Fourth Page	Vertical	\$600
	10x5 inches	
Eighth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
	2.5x5 inches	
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
	Classified 1 col.x1 inch	

The Many Warm Trends of a Brutal February

Ahhh! It's February!

February is almost here, and with it comes the whimsical, annual spectacle of Groundhog Day. Having lived and worked in Pennsylvania shortly after graduate school, I've developed a soft spot for Punxsutawney Phil and the grand ceremony at Gobbler's Knob. Each year, the small town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, comes alive with festivities, as crowds gather to witness Phil's prediction of winter's length. Dressed in tuxedos and top hats, the official handlers wait patiently for the famous groundhog to emerge and make his forecast.



Of course, there's no scientific basis for Phil's predictions, but that's hardly the point. Groundhog Day is about tradition, community, and a bit of lighthearted fun to brighten the midwinter gloom. After a very cold January, I, for one, am ready for an early spring.

Distinct seasons are a blessing for the soul. Winter invites us to snuggle in and reflect, preparing us for the fresh renewal of spring. With unseasonably cold and snowy weather so far, many of us feel disoriented about what season we're in. Thank you, Phil, for reminding us that winter still has its place, and with it, the promise of spring's arrival in March.

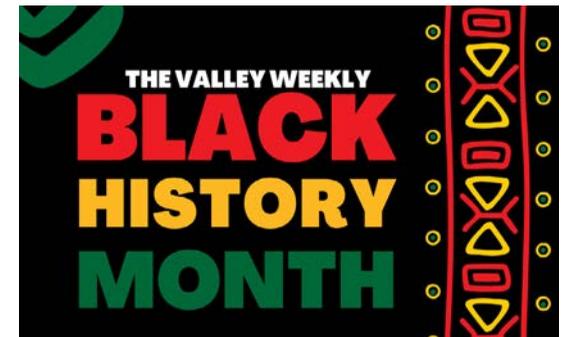
As we look forward to the coming weeks, chocked full of Black History Month activities throughout the Huntsville vicinity, mark your calendar for a very special event on Saturday, March 8th. The Rosetta James Foundation will honor eight local elders who are still actively involved in our community and will award scholarships to local college students.

Tickets are available via our website at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. February may be a chilly month, but upcoming events like these warm our hearts and enrich our minds. We hope to see you there! Until next week ...

Dorothy

JANUARY 31 - GLYNN TURMAN - Glynn Russell Turman is an American actor, writer, director, and producer. Turman is known for his roles as Lew Miles on the prime-time soap opera *Peyton Place* (1968–1969), high school student Leroy "Preach" Jackson in the 1975 coming-of-age film *Cooley High*, math professor and retired Army colonel Bradford Taylor on the NBC sitcom *A Different World* (1988–93), and Baltimore mayor Clarence Royce on the HBO drama series *The Wire*. He also portrayed Jeremiah Kaan on the Showtime series *House of Lies*.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**VALLEY
DEATHS**



SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service will be announced at a later date for **MS. GLADIS ELLISON** (b. 1959) and **MS. MARIETTA JENNINGS** (b. 1941).

Funeral service for **MR. TERENCE DAVIS** (b. 1985) was Sunday, January 26, at the Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MR. ROBERT ERVIN** (b. 1946) was held Thursday, January 23, at Fellowship of Faith Church, 3703 Memorial Parkway NW, Huntsville, Ala.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MS. FANNIE P. MATTHEWS** (b. 1934); **MR. ALI-JAH EZELL** (b. 1940); and **MS. ANITRA C. FORD** (b. 1980).

Funeral service for **MS. SHEILA L. WILSON** (b. 1959) was Saturday, January 25, at Lomax-Hannon Junior College, 725 S Conecuh Street, Greenville, Ala., with Reverend Mark Hawkins officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. MABALEAN DOBBS HALL** (b. 1957) was Thursday, January 23, at Pentecostal Lighthouse Church with Pastor Reginald Burrell officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral services for **MR. JAMES MOORE** (b. 1942); **MRS. BLANCHE FLOYD** (b. 1930); and **MR. CALVIN E. JACKSON** (b. 1969) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MRS. MILDRED E. PRUITT** (b. 1931) was Monday, January 27, at Union Chapel M.B. Church, 315 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor O. Wendall Davis officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. LIRSE JONES** (b. 1934) was Saturday, January 25, at Fellowship Presbyterian Church, 3406 Meridian Street, Huntsville, Ala., with Rev. Gregory Bentley officiating.

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S

Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

"Strength from Weakness"

Second Corinthians 10:9 says, "For my strength is made perfect in weakness."

We all have things in our lives that we wish we could do better. Some people wish they could sing better. Some wish they were better athletes or better musicians. Let's face it, we all desire to be better than our God given talents allow us to be.

Even when we look at the apostle Paul, believe it or not the bible tells us that He wanted to be a better speaker. As bold as he was as a writer, he felt as though he wasn't as good when it came to speaking (2 Corinthians 10:1). But just think, if Paul had placed all of his efforts in being a great speaker then it's quite possible that he would have never written most of the New Testament.

So, are we asking God to give us something that perhaps he wants us to work out in another way? In other words, does He want us to focus on a different talent that He has given us that allows us to lean and rely on His strength? You see, I believe that God shows us our weaknesses so that we can see His strength revealed in us.

Sometimes, what God leaves out is just as impor-

tant as what He puts in us. Because the things that He leaves out makes all of us rely more on Him. Also, our perceived weaknesses teaches us to work more with others and forces us to use what we do have. So let us thank God for our weaknesses, because remember, He says this in His word, "When I am weak, He is strong." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Prayer: Father God, help us to realize and understand that your strength is made perfect in our weakness.



Question: Have you ever had a perceived weakness in your character that God turned it into a strength?

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:
"Roses Among Thorns"

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

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



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A New Generation Of Service

Trump's Defense Pick Pete Hegseth: Saved by His Staff— What About You?

"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" – Psalms 23:4

Just hours after Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th President, the Senate Armed Services Committee approved Pete Hegseth as the nation's Secretary of Defense, pending confirmation by the full Senate.

Hegseth, a former Fox News commentator, author, and U.S. Army veteran, also led a few nonprofit veterans' organizations. However, he has never managed anything on the scale of the Department of Defense—the nation's largest employer, with nearly three million personnel. Running the Pentagon is akin to governing a state like Mississippi or Arkansas.



Complicating his nomination are allegations of sexual misconduct and alcohol abuse, as well as questions about his ability to lead the world's largest military operation with an annual budget of \$842 billion.

Addressing concerns about Hegseth's lack of experience, Susan Wiles, President Trump's chief of staff, was quoted in *The New York Times* as saying, "That's what staff is for. It's our obligation to give him people that understand the business of national defense."

And she's absolutely correct. The success of any leader—Hegseth or otherwise—ultimately depends on the team surrounding them. These emerging leaders, often working behind the scenes, are the ones who "make the trains run on time."

Kings or Kingmakers?

Organizations resemble icebergs: the visible 10% above the surface represents leadership at the top, while the submerged 90% provides the true strength and stability.

In most thriving organizations, it's not just the CEOs who drive success—especially since they often come and go—but the secondary leaders operating below the radar. These individuals, often long-tenured and deeply loyal, possess influence, relationships, and institutional knowledge that far exceed their titles. They are the ones who ensure the smooth running of daily operations and maintain the organization's long-term stability.



Ancient Indian philosopher Chanakya was once asked: Who is more powerful—a king or a kingmaker? His response was illuminating:

"Anyone can become a king, but a king's reign is temporary. A kingmaker, however, can create many kings."

What About Your "Rod and Staff"?

If confirmed, Hegseth's "rod and staff," as symbolized in Psalms 23, will ultimately determine his success. The rod represents protection, while the staff provides guidance—two qualities he will rely on from his team to navigate the challenges ahead.

Whether in leadership or life, no one succeeds alone. So, who or what are your "rod and staff"? Who provides you with protection and guidance as you take on challenges? Reflect on the strength of those who stand behind you and help you thrive.



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

<https://bit.ly/4aB9Lwm>, <https://bit.ly/4cYZyuz>

Email Address: leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com

Millennial Moment

by
Gloria B. Caldwell

Faith and Fear ...

Ok, let's chat. Faith means, "Complete trust in someone or something." Biblically, it is said, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

So now, what is fear? "An unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat." I don't need to point out the parallel; however, I am.

Oftentimes, we block the things that God has for us by choosing fear. Now we have sense enough to use our discernment with things that are dangerous and clearly not good for us. However,



we apply fear to things we have ruled ourselves out on not being able to accomplish. Some of us were told by parents, teachers, friends, and foes that we must be foolish to believe we can attain or do some things.

... And, that's sad because people will infuse their fear and ineptitude on us. The bad part is that we will receive it!

So, here's the good part. You can change that today. Faith and fear both demand that you believe in something you cannot see. You choose which one you're going with.

If you have been given a thought, idea, dream, or wonderful opportunity, take your faith and head out! Don't choose fear and come up with ridiculous reasons as to why it won't work. It most definitely won't have the opportunity to if you don't try.

Think about it!
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 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.

January 31-February 2

Alabama RV Show
VBC South Hall
Huntsville, Ala.

February 2

Harlem Globetrotters
2025 World Tour
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

February 7-9

Jehovah's Witnesses Con-
vention
South Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

February 8

Huntsville City Schools
Curriculum Showcase
East Hall 2 & 3
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

R&N Invitation

Featuring:
Eric Benet, Joe & Musiq
Soulchild
VBC Propst Arena
Ticketmaster
8 p.m.

February 14-16

"Arnez J"
Comedy Standup
Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.

February 15

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

Allston Launches Livestreams *(From Page 1)*

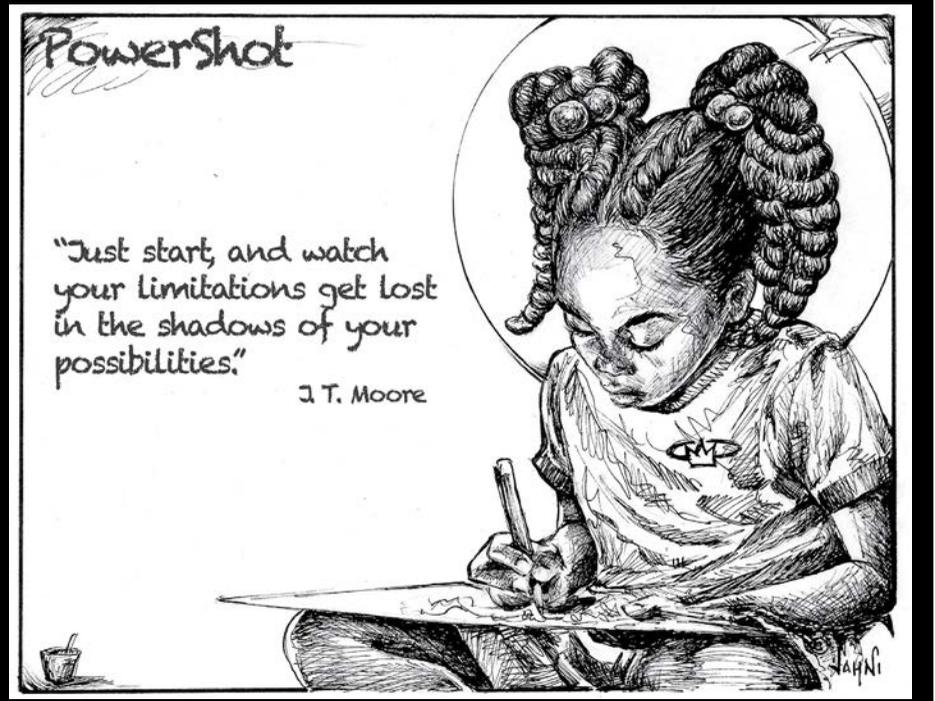
for which I am grateful." Those columns produced his five independently-published books, the last four of which became Amazon best sellers.

"My livestream goal each week will be to use my 350-word TVW col-

umns; triple or even quadruple their word counts; and enhance those words with narration, video and still images, in order to engage my live audiences."

Studies show that people remember 80% of what they see, versus 10% of

what they hear, and 20% of what they read. "I want to give my audiences a full no-excuses experience, intersecting current events with God's message for us during these challenging times."



"There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now."

- James Baldwin



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

Dr. Marvin P. Carroll

Dr. Marvin P. Carroll, president and Chief Executive Officer of Tec-Masters, Inc., is a Servant Leader who embodies humility, service and generosity. An electrical engineering graduate of Howard University, he went on to earn a master's and the Ph.D. degree in public administration.

After retiring from the U.S. Army Missile Command, Dr. Carroll founded Tec-Masters in 1988 to provide technical support to the Department of Defense and commercial customers. The company provides a wide range of services, including: Training Systems Technology; Modeling & Simulation Technology; Multimedia Design Technology; Training and Doctrine Development; Weapons Systems Technology; Automotive Systems Technologies; Navigation and Telematics; Commercial/Manufacturing Technology; Aerospace Technology; Information Systems Technology; E-Teaching; and much more. He also had the unique experience of serving as a Legislative Fellow

for three years for a U.S. Senator, advising him on Weapon System Acquisition policy.

Dr. Carroll has served diligently throughout the community, and he has previously been actively involved or is currently serving as a member of various industry organizations, such as the board of Huntsville Botanical Gardens, Huntsville-Madison County Department of Health and Human Services, Board of Directors of Tuskegee University School of Engineering, the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), Huntsville-Madison County Space and Rocket Center, and many others.

Dr. Carroll has a keen interest in working with and involving youth in various aspects of business. He has committed himself to lending his personal expertise to college interns who are interested in learning business start-up and operations. As a Visiting Executive-in-Residence at Auburn University, he exhorted students to spend time understanding the market, custom-



ers, and their requirements.

He is especially committed causes that nurture community growth and youth development. Some of these endeavors include: Youth Friendship Foundation, Young Business Leaders, AAMU Black-Tie Scholarship Fund, Coats-4-Kids Program (Eagles' Nest Ministries Church), American Heart Association, Army Emergency Relief Fund, Bob Jones High School Robotics Team, Union Chapel Christian Academy Scholarship Program, Harris Home for Children, HEALS of Huntsville, Morehouse College Technical Innovations Entrepreneurship Program, Alabama Shop-With-A Cop Program for Children and many 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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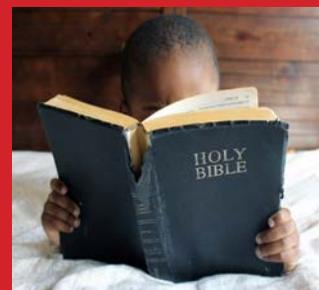
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168974

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, February 2, 2025

The Presentation
of Jesus
in the Temple



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:
Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 84

Second Lesson:
Hebrews 2:14-18

GOSPEL:
Luke 2:22-40



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the Magic on
the Mountain!

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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



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Arts Huntsville Announces Expansion of City Hall Public Art Tours

Due to popular demand, Arts Huntsville is excited to announce the expansion of its City Hall Public Art Tours. Beginning in February 2025, the program will shift to “First Fridays,” offering tours on the first Friday of each month (excluding July 4th) at 4:30 p.m.

These free, docent-led tours will explore the “Our Civic Canvas” collection, a special exhibition within the City of Huntsville’s “Amazing Spaces” public art collection. “Our Civic Canvas” features a diverse range of artwork spe-

cifically chosen to enhance the City Hall environment. This first-of-its-kind collection for any Alabama municipality celebrates Huntsville’s culture, history, and its natural and built environment.

The new City Hall opened in May of 2024 as a 100-year building that will accommodate a growing city. Designed by architect Mark Coyle, the building had public art planned from the onset and includes the work of national artists Shuli Sadé and Cliff Garten, regional artists Cal Breed and Ben Butler,

and local artists Guadalupe Lanning Robinson, Cynthia Wagner, Jahni Moore, Yuri Ozaki, Ann Moeller, and David Nuttall.

“The tremendous response to our City Hall Public Art Tours last summer exceeded our expectations,” said Allison Dillon-Jauken, Executive Director of Arts Huntsville. “We are thrilled by the public’s enthusiasm in exploring the public art within City Hall and throughout the community, and are grateful to the City of Huntsville for the opportunity to expand these tours to ‘First

Fridays’ in 2025.”

Reservations are required and can be made online at the Arts Huntsville web-

site. Tours for February, March, April, May, and June are currently available. For more informa-

tion, visit www.artshuntsville.org or follow Arts Huntsville on social media (@ArtsHuntsville).

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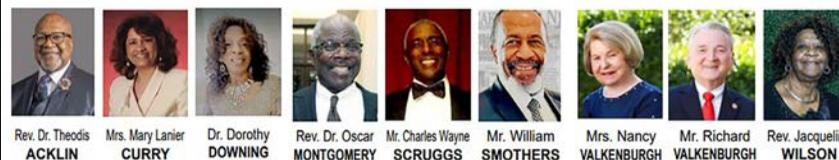
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The Rosetta James Foundation is a registered 509(a)(2) Public Charity and educational organization founded for the sole purposes of providing scholarships to deserving students and recognizing the contributions of the elderly in the community while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

The Valley Weekly Washington One Minute



by Ron Hamm

Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington:

1. CONGRESS. The Senate is in session this week and the House is on a 1-week recess to reconvene on Tues., Feb. 4. House Republicans were in Miami Monday through Wednesday for their issues retreat at the Trump National Doral Resort.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. The President, having toured storm and wildfire damage in North Carolina and California last Friday, followed by a “No Taxes on Tips” rally in Las Vegas on Saturday, will be in Miami today to address House Republicans at their retreat. Last week, the White House’s Office

of Personnel Management decreed that federal agencies had a 5:00 p.m. deadline Friday (Jan. 24) to revise their remote work policies, mostly ending the practice except in certain cases including where there are telework collective bargaining agreements in place, giving federal employees 30 days to comply with the new rule. There is also a new freeze on hiring federal employees, except for military and national security personnel.

3. SUPREME COURT. Last Friday, the Trump administration asked the Supreme Court to pause 4 cases slated for argument during the 2024-25 term to allow the EPA and Education Department’s new

leadership to review regulations that are the focus of the cases: (1) student loan forgiveness; (2) California’s waiver for its 2035 all zero-emission vehicle mandate; (3) the EPA renewable fuels mandate; and (4) the Clean Air

Act good neighbor policy. **4. RECONCILIATION PLANS.** Punchbowl News reported last week that House GOP committee chairs met to discuss up to \$3 trillion of spending cuts and budget savings to fund Republicans’ reconciliation package, which will include the GOP main agenda item for 2025 – the reauthorization of the 2017 tax cuts (which is expected to cost \$5 trillion). The options include possibilities such as curtailing student loan programs, Medicaid and SNAP Program cuts, repealing electric vehicle mandates, and new immigration-related fees.

5. DOGE GETS OFFICIAL POST. Last week, the President signed an

executive order granting an official post within the White House for Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) as a temporary 18-month organization under the repurposed United States Digital Service, now called the United States DOGE Service – with a stated goal to “modernize federal technology and software to maximize governmental efficiency and productivity.” (Note: the US Digital Service was created in 2014 to provide consultation services to

federal agencies on information technology, such as assistance to improve federal websites.)

6. EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee is set to focus on bipartisan issues in the new Congress, particularly the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). **7. DNC WINTER MEETING.** This Saturday (Feb. 1), National Democrats will hold their Winter Meeting at National

Harbor, MD (near Washington, D.C.) and will elect a new chair of the Democratic National Committee, along with other top leadership positions.

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Arts Huntsville Announces 2025 Grant Recipients

Arts Huntsville celebrates the 2025 Huntsville Arts and Cultural Grant Program recipients. The Huntsville City Council awarded \$300,000 in pass-through grant funding as part of the City’s FY25 budget, and eligible local arts organizations completed detailed grant applications in the fall of 2024. A citizen-grant panel with experience in varied artistic disciplines and representative of each of Huntsville’s five City Council districts reviewed the applications.

The 20 Huntsville non-profit organizations receiving grant awards include the following:

Above The Barre Dance Experience - \$5,022
Alabama Youth Ballet Theatre - \$16,716
Brass Band of Huntsville - \$5,821
Broadway Theatre League - \$25,200
Dance All Productions, Inc. - \$14,940
Fantasy Playhouse Children’s Theater - \$24,897

Huntsville Chamber Music Guild - \$21,867
Huntsville Community

Drumline - \$22,776
Huntsville Concert Band - \$3,511
Huntsville Master Chorale - \$12,186
Huntsville Traditional Music Association - \$3,810
Huntsville Youth Orchestra - \$21,564

Independent Musical Productions - \$11,504
Maitland Arts Initiative - \$12,171
Merrimack - \$19,140
Opera Huntsville - \$17,928

Shenanigans Comedy Theatre - \$12,920
Southern Fried Film Festival - \$14,292
Theatre Huntsville - \$15,504



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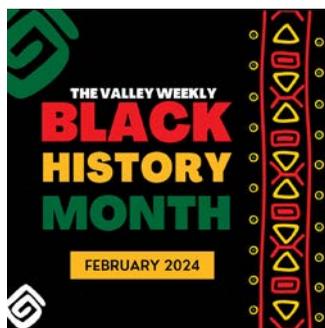
ON THIS DAY

On January 31, 1963, James Baldwin’s influential collection of essays *The Fire Next Time* was published. The book has been called “a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice,” as well as an intensely personal and provocative document. - BlackFacts.com



Honoring Some of the State's Finest: Alabama-Born African-American Notables

by Jerome Saintjones



Hank Aaron, baseballer, Mobile
Ralph Abernathy, activist, Linden
Joel "JoJo" Adams, bluesman, Rural
Tommie Lee Agee, MLB, Magnolia
Arthur Alexander, singer, Sheffield
Inez Andrews, gospel, Birmingham
Lloyd Austin, Sec. of Defense, Mobile
Robert Avery, activist hitchhiked to 1963 March, Gadsden

Charles Barkley, NBA star, Leeds
Andrew Jackson Beard, inventor of railroad coupler, Pinson
Regina Benjamin, U.S. Surgeon General, Mobile

Jo Jo Benson, R&B/soul singer, Phenix City

Herman Blount aka "Sun Ra," Visionary musician, Birmingham
Willie D. Burton, Oscar-winning sound engineer, Tuscaloosa
Clarence and Curtis Butler "Butler Twins," Detroit blues, Killen
George "Wild Child" Butler, Blues harmonica player, Autaugaville

James Anthony Carmichael, Grammy-winning arranger, Gadsden

Johnnie Carr, activist, Montgomery
Clarence Carter, singer, Montgomery
Nell Carter, actress/singer, Birmingham

Reg E. Cathey, actor, Huntsville
John Henrik Clarke, Pan Africanist, Union Springs

Mattie Moss Clarke, gospel, Selma
Lorenzo Clemons, actor, Birmingham

Nat King Cole, icon, Montgomery
Burl C. "Jaybird" Coleman, blues harmonica player, Gainesville

Mitty Collier, singer, Birmingham
Marva Collins, educator, Monroeville

Laverne Cox, actress, Mobile
Tony Cox, actor, Uniontown

William Dawson, composer, Anniston
Anthony Daniels, Alabama's first

Erskine Hawkins, trumpeter, Birmingham
Alexis Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, Mobile

Andre' Holland, actor, Bessemer
Condredge Holloway, CFL, Huntsville
Evander Holyfield, boxer, Atmore

James Hood, Education pioneer, Gadsden
Brittany Howard, singer, Athens
Jimmy Hughes, singer, Leighton

Zora Neale Hurston, novelist, Notasulga

Bo Jackson, athlete, Bessemer
Katherine Jackson, matriarch of The Jackson Family, Clayton

Rosetta James, activist, Akron
Mae Jemison, astronaut, Decatur

Mick Jenkins, Hip hop artist, Huntsville
Angela Johnson, children's book author and poet, Tuskegee

Orlando Jones, actor, Mobile
Vivian Malone Jones, pioneer in higher education, Mobile

Tom Joyner, radio personality, Tuskegee
Percy Julian, inventor, Montgomery

Eddie Kendricks, R&B singer/songwriter, Union Springs
Coretta Scott King, civil rights advocate, Marion

Frederick Knight, R&B singer and record producer, Birmingham
Mathew Knowles, talent manager, father of Beyonce, Gadsden

Simmie Lee Knox, painter (official portrait of Clinton), Aliceville

Eddie Levert, singer, Bessemer
Carl Lewis, track star, Birmingham

John Lewis, congressman, Troy
Shorty Long, singer, Birmingham
Joe Louis, famous boxer, LaFayette

Wilson Pickett, singer, Prattville
Pat Powdrill, Ikettes, Birmingham

Sun Ra, bandleader and composer, Birmingham (aka Herman Blount)
Martha Reeves, singer, Eufaula
Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary of State, Birmingham

Maurice "Rich Boy" Richards, rapper, Mobile
Lionel Richie, singer, Tuskegee
Robin Roberts, television broadcaster, Tuskegee

John Solomon Sandridge, artist/sculptor, Gadsden
David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General, Anniston
Eugene Sawyer, Jr., former mayor of Chicago, Greensboro

Naomi Shelton, singer, Midway
Percy Sledge, singer, Leighton
Broderick "Rickey" Smiley, comedian, Birmingham

James Foster Smith, teen hitchhiker to the 1963 March, Gadsden
Limmye Snell, soul singer, Dalton
Octavia Spencer, actor, Montgomery

John Stallworth, former Pittsburgh Steeler, Tuscaloosa
Candi Staton, singer, Hanceville
Ruben Studdard, former "American Idol", Birmingham

Glenn "Doe B" Thomas, rapper, Montgomery
Robert Frank Thomas, teen hitchhiked to 1963 March, Gadsden
Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton, singer and songwriter, Ariton
Oscar Toney Jr., soul singer, Selma
Cynthia Tucker, syndicated columnist, Monroeville

Don Varner, singer, Birmingham

Sharon Warren, actor, Opelika
Dinah Washington, blues queen, Tuscaloosa
Thomas Weatherly, poet, Scottsboro
Dootsie Williams, record producer, Mobile (Walter D.)
Doug Williams, comedian, Montgomery

Palmer Williams, Jr., actor, Camden
Bill Winston, televangelist, Tuskegee
Jameis Winston, football player, Hueytown
Holland Dai'mon "Mr. Envi" Witherspoon, rapper, Uniontown
Ella Ramah Willis Wofford, mother of Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison, Greenville
Roy Wood, Jr., comedian and actor, Birmingham
Ali-Ollie Woodson, singer/musician, Town Creek
Coleman Young, former mayor of Detroit, Tuscaloosa

black minority House leader, Midway
Angela Davis, activist, Birmingham
Sam Dees, singer, Birmingham

Brenda Lee Eager, soul singer, Mobile
Dennis Edwards, singer, Birmingham
James Reese Europe, composer, Mobile

Maria Fearing, ex-slave educator and missionary, Gainesville

Vonetta Flowers, Olympian, Birmingham

Eddie Floyd, singer, Montgomery
Clarence Fountain, blind singer, Tyler
Melvin Franklin, singer, Montgomery

G-Side, hip hop duo, Huntsville
Oscar Gamble, MLB outfielder, Ramer

A.G. Gaston, businessman, Birmingham
Kenneth Gibson, Newark, NJ mayor, Enterprise

Fred Gray, civil rights atty. (Rosa Parks, Tuskegee Study), Montgomery

Albert Hall, actor, Brighton
Vera Hall, Folk singer, Livingston

Lionel Hampton, jazz musician, Birmingham

W.C. Handy, "Father of the Blues," Florence

William R. Harvey, Hampton U. president, Brewton

Launch Tank 2025 Competition Accepting Applications

North Alabama's own "Shark Tank" competition is back! Launch and Singing River Trail are excited to announce applications for the fourth annual Singing River Trail Launch Tank competition are open. This "Shark Tank" style competition allows local entrepreneurs the chance to turn their innovative ideas into thriving businesses.

Entrepreneurs who are chosen to compete will pitch their business ideas at

the Scottsboro Civic Center in Scottsboro, Alabama, on April 23, 2025, in front of a live audience. Up to \$25,000 in cash and prizes are available to the winners.

Applications are open to residents or people who work in Colbert, DeKalb, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, or Morgan counties. Finalists will receive personalized introductions to programs and resources that cater to their unique

business needs, in addition to the chance to win non-dilutive funding.

Key Dates for Launch Tank 2025:

March 23: Applications Close

April 2: Finalists Announced

April 23: Live Pitch Event at Scottsboro Civic Center, Scottsboro, Ala.

Winners will be announced at the event. Visit launch2025.org.

Joseph Lowery, minister/civil rights leader, Huntsville
Autherine Lucy, pioneer, Shiloh

Gucci Mane, rapper, Bessemer
Willie Mays, baseball legend, Westfield

Jerry McCain, electric blues musician, Gadsden

Iverson Minter - "Louisiana Red," blues guitarist, Bessemer

Johnny Moore, R&B singer of Drifters fame, Selma

Albert Murray, novelist and literary critic, Nokomis

Ozzie Newsome, former NFL player, Muscle Shoals

Fayard Nicholas, "Nicholas Brothers," Tap dancer/choreographer, Mobile

Cliff Nobles, American pop singer, Grove Hill

Odetta, folk singer, Birmingham

Jesse Owens, athlete, Oakville

Terrell Owens, football notable, Alexander City

Satchel Paige, pitcher, Mobile

Henry Panion, conductor/professor, Birmingham

Rosa Parks, civil rights icon, Tuskegee
Jesse Lee Peterson, conservative activist, Midway

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