

POSITIVE-INSPIRATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL

The Legacy Center: 'State of Aging' Bus Tour - p. 11 **FREE**



Rep. Laura Hall at Legacy Center Tour

TARCOG Breaks Ground - p. 12

Friday
February 14, 2025
Vol. 11, No. 24
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



GLORIA B: So That You Know! - p. 5

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. James D. Foster

"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose." - Zora Neale Hurston

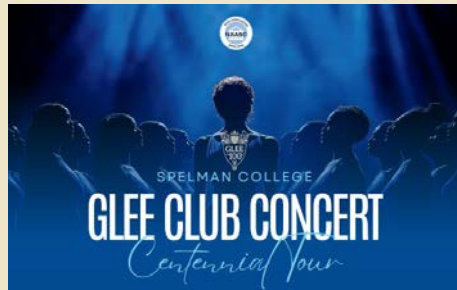
Citizens Police Academy Taking Applications

The Huntsville Police Department seeks applications for its Citizens Police Academy. The academy is a dynamic, hands-on program designed to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the community.



Classes will be held weekly at the Huntsville Public Safety Training Academy, 5365 Triana Blvd., beginning Tuesday, April 29. The nine-week course will meet every Tuesday evening from 6-9 p.m. The program is open to individuals who meet the following criteria: At least 19 years old; Live or work in the City of Huntsville; and Successful completion of a background check.

The deadline to apply is Friday, February 28. For more information and to apply, click [HERE](#).



Spelman Glee Club to Perform in Concert

The Huntsville Area Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College will host the Spelman College Glee Club Concert Centennial Tour.

The event will be held on Saturday, March 8, at 4 p.m. at the Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 228 Church Street NW, located in Downtown Huntsville.

The historic Spelman College Glee Club has maintained a reputation for choral excellence since 1924, and is

currently under the direction of Dr. Kevin Johnson. Open by audition to all students of the college community, Glee Club performs a repertoire that includes selections from world cultures, sacred and secular choral literature, Negro spirituals, and music by African American composers.

All proceeds will benefit the Dr. Bessie Washington Jones Scholarship Fund. For online ticket (\$50) purchases, visit <http://www.huntsvillenaasc.org>.

BHM: Commission to Honor Two Leaders Posthumously

The Madison County Commission will posthumously honor two local civil rights leaders to recognize Black History Month: former Madison County Board of Registrars Chairperson **Beulah Ballard Toney** and former NAACP president **Rev. Robert L. Shanklin**.

"Both individuals made significant contributions to our community through activism and action," said Commissioner Edwards.

Born in segregation, Ms. Toney made it her life's mission to register voters and was a champion of fair and equitable elections. She was the first Black woman to lead the Madison County Board of Registrars.

Rev. Robert L.

Shanklin tirelessly advocated for social justice and civil rights. He served the country honorably during the Cuban Crisis and

the Vietnam War as a United States Marine Corps member.

Rev. Shanklin served as president of the Huntsville NAACP Chapter

and the Alabama State Conference, where he secured the largest racial discrimination settlement in North Alabama history.

'Evening of Spirituals' Set for St. John AME

On Sunday, February 16, at 6 p.m., the St. John AME Church, the Music and Christian Arts Ministry will host the annual Walter Williams Evening of Spirituals. Negro spirituals hold a

timeless power, carrying stories of hope, faith, and resilience. This evening will feature Dr. Janette Kotey, Dr. Shonda Devine, Dr. Roderick Belin, The Alpha Ensemble, Arthurine Shack-

ford, St. John AME Mass Choir, AAMU Choir, Lee High Choir and Church Street CPCA Chancel Choir.

Honorees include: Dr. Uzee Brown, Dr. Roland Carter and Dr. Horace Carney.

Six with Ties to AAMU Apply for UAPB Top Post

At least six persons with current or former ties to Alabama A&M University were among the nearly 60 vying for the top post at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

The six include **Drs. Allen P. Vital**, former adminis-

trator; **Braque M. Talley Sr.**, current administrator; **Jack Thomas**, alumnus; **Archie Tucker II**, former administrator; **Teresa M. Orok**, current administrator; and **W. Franklin Evans**, former faculty member.

-HBCUWork.com

The Valley Weekly

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Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in session this week. A select group of House Republicans led by House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) met for 4 hours at the White House last Thursday to hammer out the details on the FY2025 House Budget Resolution, tentatively set for committee markup on Tuesday, that may include a framework for \$1-2 trillion in 10-year revenue offsets for the upcoming Budget Reconciliation/Tax Bill Reauthorization. On Friday morning, the Senate Budget Committee released its own draft FY2025 Budget Resolution that it intends to mark up on Wednesday and Thursday that would set up a 2-bill Reconciliation strategy and start with a focus on border, energy and defense funding (getting to the Tax Bill portion later). The Senate will continue voting on cabinet nominees this week, which included a vote Monday to end the filibuster on Tulsi Gabbard's nomination to be Director of National Intelligence. This week, Senate committees will hold hearings on Lori Chavez-DeRemer to be Labor Secretary and Linda McMahon to be Education Secretary. The latest 5 nominees to be confirmed last week were Russell Vought to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Scott Turner as HUD Secretary, Doug Collins as Veterans Affairs Secretary, Chris Wright as Energy Secretary, and Pam Bondi to be Attorney General (in total, 13 cabinet posts of the 22 nominated positions have been confirmed to

date). Last weekend, GOP Senators convened their retreat at The Breakers in Palm Beach, FL and had dinner with the President Friday night at Mar-a-Lago.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. On Sunday, February 13, en route to New Orleans to attend Superbowl LIX, the President proclaimed the first ever "Gulf of America Day" and also announced that he will impose a 25% tariff on all foreign steel and aluminum imports into the United States as of Monday and would soon announce reciprocal tariffs on America's trading partners. On Tuesday, the President will meet at the White House with Jordan's King Abdullah II, who has rejected the President's proposal announced last week for the U.S. to permanently resettle 2 million Palestinians out of Gaza. The President said he will meet this week with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and speak with Russian President Putin.

The Wall Street Journal reports that the administration is working on an executive order to fire thousands of federal healthcare workers, including at the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control that would have to cut a certain percentage of its employees. For a searchable list of executive orders issued since January 20, go to UC Santa Barbara's The Presidency Project.

Last Friday, the President announced that he was firing Kennedy Center Chairman David Rubenstein and other Kennedy Center board members and appointing himself as the new chairman. On Thursday, the FAA ordered

Valley Weekly Washington One Minute



an immediate reduction in aircraft arrivals at National Airport from 28 to 26 per hour (that reportedly will increase average delays from 40 minutes to 50 minutes) in response to the Jan. 29 collision of an Army Black Hawk helicopter and American Eagle Flight #5342 that killed 67 people.

3. U.S. DOGE SERVICE. On Saturday, one federal judge ruled that Elon Musk's U.S. DOGE Service can continue to access sensitive data at the Department of Labor (after finding that the AFL-CIO and other unions lacked standing to sue), while on the same day another federal judge issued an emergency order prohibiting the U.S. DOGE Service from accessing personal and financial data on millions of Americans kept at the Treasury Department and also ordered Musk and his team to immediately destroy any and all copies of material downloaded from the Treasury Department's records and systems. In related news, on Friday another federal judge issued a temporary halt to Elon Musk's sudden closure of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in which 2,700 USAID headquarters staff were given only a few days' notice last week to clear out of their offices by Friday at midnight. The Washington Post reported on Friday that U.S. farm groups were pressuring

the government to restore \$340 million in paused payments for rice, soybeans and wheat purchased by USAID as foreign food aid (in 2020, USAID purchased a total of \$2.1 billion in food aid from U.S. farmers). The emergency order is in effect until another judge hears arguments on the matter on February 14. DOGE strike teams are now reportedly running the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the General Services Administration and moved late last week to shut down the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (a perennial GOP target), while also installing themselves at EPA, Labor, NOAA, HHS, Education, Energy, FEMA, and Veterans Affairs. The New York Times reported that last Thursday Musk and the 40 members of his DOGE strike teams met with Vice President Vance to give him a 90-minute briefing on their efforts to dismantle the federal bureaucracy, which on DOGE's X site claimed Friday night that it had terminated 199 federal contracts in the last 2 days resulting in \$250 million in spending cuts.

4. FED EMPLOYEE BUYOUT OFFER. Last Thursday, a federal judge stayed the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's federal employee buyout offer hours before Thursday night's deadline, pending a court hearing Monday on

the matter. To comply with the order, OPM extended the deadline for federal employees to Monday (Feb. 10) at midnight. The buyouts are for all full-time federal employees (except for military personnel, U.S. Postal Service workers, and those in positions in immigration enforcement and national security), for which OPM pledges to give 8 months of salary through September 30 if they accept (and they would no longer have to report to work). See the OPM offer here: <https://www.opm.gov/fork>.

The Washington Post reported that between 50,000 – 65,000 federal employees had accepted the buyout by the original Thursday deadline, significantly fewer than the 220,000 (10%) that OPM had set as a goal.

5. JANUARY JOBS REPORT. On Friday, the Labor Department reported that U.S. economy added 143,000 jobs in January, down sharply from the 307,000 added in December and below the expected 169,000 forecast by economists. Job gains occurred in health care, retail trade, and social assistance, while declines showed in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry. CNN reported that job gains have slowed not because of mass layoffs, but because hiring activity has slowed sharply. The unemployment rate, however, was basically unchanged and ticked down to 4% from 4.1%. Also on Friday, the University of Michigan's gauge of consumer sentiment fell to 67.8 in a preliminary February reading, down from 71.1 in the prior month and the lowest reading since July 2024, as

pessimism over the inflation outlook drove down February's preliminary read and 1-year inflation expectations jumped to 4.3% from 3.3% last month. Notably, the decline in sentiment was widespread, with lower readings for Republicans, Democrats and independents.

6. HIGHER EDUCATION. Last Friday, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced it will cap overhead and administrative cost funding ("indirect" costs) for research grants at 15% effective immediately, potentially reducing billions in support for research institutions. Higher education groups warn that this reduction from previous rates will significantly impact universities and will slow and limit medical breakthroughs that address diseases like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. In FY 2023, the NIH spent more than \$35 billion on nearly 50,000 competitive grants to more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions across the country. The agency said while roughly \$26 billion went to direct costs for research, about \$9 billion was allocated to overhead through NIH's indirect cost rate.

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The Valley Weekly

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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.

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The Valley Weekly

Ad Rates Single Issue

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

Celebrating Anniversaries: Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

Anniversaries are more than just dates on a calendar; they are milestones that remind us of our journey, our growth, and the impact we have made. This March 8th, the Rosetta James Foundation will mark its 19th anniversary—a moment of reflection, celebration, and renewed commitment to service.

When we first began as a group of volunteers dedicated to honoring local elders in the community, we never imagined how far we would go. What started as a heartfelt mission has flourished into a legacy of recognition and community support. Over the years, we have hosted 15 celebrations to honor elders, not only for their past contributions but for the volunteer work they continue to do. Their commitment inspires us all, demonstrating that service knows no age limit.

Beyond celebrating our elders, the Foundation has also embraced the future by fostering community volunteerism. Through our scholarship program, we have empowered the next generation of servant leaders via needed support for 18 years. This year, we are proud to award scholarships to deserving local students, ensuring that the spirit of service continues for years to come.

Cultural enrichment has also been a pillar of our mission. Over the years, we have brought transformative experiences to Huntsville, including performances of Letter from a Birmingham Jail by the Red Mountain Mountain Theatre Group and best-selling author Wil Haygood (The Butler). In 2016, we were thrilled to present Urban Strings, a Central Ohio-based, African-American youth orchestra composed of talented young musicians from diverse backgrounds. Their repertoire spans classical, jazz, gospel, R&B, and movie themes, providing an invaluable opportunity for students to expand their musical horizons. Urban Strings not only cultivates technical proficiency but also emphasizes academic excellence, preparing its members for well-rounded success. Our partnership with Friends of Art for Community Enrichment (F.A.C.E.) in Columbus allowed us to bring this remarkable orchestra to Huntsville, furthering our commitment to artistic and educational outreach. It is through the support of dedicated individuals and organizations that we are able to continue these efforts.

As we celebrate our 2025 Elders and Pioneers, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the R J Foundation Board of Directors and all of our community sponsors and donors. Your generosity and commitment make this celebration possible, reminding us all that when we begin a journey of service, we never truly know just how far it will take us.

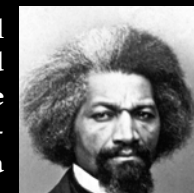
Here's to 19 years of honoring the past, embracing the present, and investing in the future.

Until next week ...



February 14 - FREDERICK DOUGLASS - Frederick Douglass was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York, gaining note for his oratory and incisive antislavery writings. In his time, he was described by abolitionists as a living counter-example to slaveholders' arguments that slaves lacked the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens. Northerners at the time found it hard to believe that such a great orator had once been a slave.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



Dorothy

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**VALLEY
DEATHS**



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

Funeral service for **MR. TRACY LOCKETT** (b. 1963) was Saturday, February 8, at Mt. Zion CPCA, 3726 Pryor Road, Madison, Ala.

Funeral service for **MS. BERDONNA JOHNSON** (b. 1972) was Sunday, February 2, at Mt. Calvary Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1201 Meadow Drive, Huntsville, Ala.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816
(256) 539-8189 - www.nelmsmemorial.net
Celebration of Life service for **MR. JA'VAUNTRE M. JACKSON** (b. 2001) was Monday, February 10, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Celebration of Life Service for **MASTER CARTIER LEE "CARTER" FRIEND** (b. 2024) was Monday, February 10, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Apostle Sylvia Moore of Abounding Love Ministries officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. ANITA JOHNSON** (b. 1940) was Sunday, February 9, at Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Mario Ford officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. ERNEST N. COWAN** (b. 1956) was Friday, February 7, at Spring Hill United Methodist Church with Rev. Dennis Jones officiating.

Funeral service for **MISS MAIA STERNS** (b. 1997) was Wednesday, February 5, at Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church with Pastor Gregory Scott, pastor.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for **MRS. NORA DEAN BRADLEY** (b. 1950) was Saturday, February 8, at Little Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church, located at 198 Browns Ferry Rd, Madison, Ala., with Pastor Reginald Johnson officiating.

A memorial service for **MRS. LISA S. JOHNSON** (b. 1966) was Saturday, February 8, at the Royal Chapel of Memories,

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



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:
"Everyday Faith"

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Sometimes we think that we need some kind of special knowledge to grow in our faith. However, what we need is the kind of faith that grows in our everyday life. We need the kind of faith that is adaptable to whatever circumstance or situations we are going through. I want a faith that you can use every day, not just on Sunday. I want a faith that deals with the everyday ups and downs of life.

We also need a durable faith. We need a faith that is not held hostage by the outcome. Because as we read this scripture, faith is having confidence in what we do not see. If you could see it, then it wouldn't be faith. Remember,

if you need a certain outcome to validate your faith, it's only a matter of time before you give up on your faith. That's why you need a faith that works even when your situation is not cooperating.

We need a faith that works even though you don't know what is going to happen next. This type



of faith is not based on an outcome but based on an outlook.


Prayer: Most gracious God, give us a

faith that will endure through any kind of situation, so that we may see the magnitude of your grace and mercy.

Question: Is your faith based on the way that you want things to happen?

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

NEXT WEEK:
"The Power of Forgiveness"



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Your Prayer Breakfast's "Daily Bread"

(Part 2 of 3)

"Give us THIS DAY our DAILY BREAD" - Matthew 6:11

In our last installment, "Is Prayer in your National Breakfast, . . . and Lunch, . . . AND Dinner?," I shared that prayer needs to be our country's regular three-meals-a-day plan more now than ever.

How to effectively start a prayer life? Jesus answered this question for His disciples when He revealed prayer's "secret sauce."

When they asked, "Lord: teach us to pray," His answer became "The Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:9-13). In verse 11, He offered: "Give us THIS DAY our DAILY BREAD" (emphasis added).

Most of us fall short of reaching our goals because we miss Jesus' simple seven-word formula. We focus more on longer-range yearly goals than daily executions. But the Bible and Jesus got it right.

For example, throughout the Bible, it references "year" or "years" 324 times, but uses "day" or "days" 1,431 times—a four-to-one ratio. Perhaps that's why so many of us fail at keeping New Year's resolutions: our focus is incorrectly long (yearly) when it should be shorter (doable and daily).

Now, let's instead try filling each day by making New Day's resolutions. Smaller, bite-sized daily goals and resolutions are easier to achieve than 365-day projections that often fail.

Take It from the Championship Coach

"Today is the day," emphasized Coach Joe Mazzulla, when asked how his 2024-25 Boston Celtics would defend their championship. "We're all going to be dead soon, and it really doesn't matter anymore, so there's zero pressure," Joe Mazzulla drops an all-time quote when asked about pressure on 2024-25 Celtics.

Prayer is—or should be—our daily bread, and it is enhanced by practicing it each single day.

Make It Personal, Practical, and Portable

Start your day with a 5-minute prayer—praise God, thank Him, and ask for guidance.

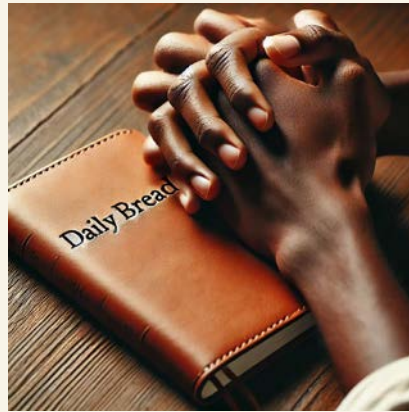
Keep a "Daily Bread" journal, noting what you're grateful for and how God provides each day.

Finally, set reminders for short 1-minute prayers throughout the day, inviting God into your moments.

By making prayer personal, practical, and portable, it becomes a lifestyle—sustaining your spirit just as bread sustains your body.



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Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time
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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

So That You Know ...

You're unique in every sense of the word. You need to be told more! So, I'm telling you. You're unique, one-of-a-kind, and you're loved. Don't allow your fleeting thoughts to tell you any different. They said, "You're not enough." Well, shame on them for expressing their thoughts about you to you. You weren't created for them. You're too special for them to appreciate you. So, yeah, thanks, but no thanks for their input. They said, "You're not smart enough!" Interesting, by whose standards? I know some not so "intellectual" (by the world's standards) people that can run circles around the aver-

age and above-average people. These people are cooking, cleaning, fixing cars, cutting hair, braiders, electricians, builders, lawn care, etc. I mean genius! These are skills we utilize every day! Everyone needs them! They are positioned to be millionaires if they do it right! I get my hair braided by a lady who does it out of her home and makes more money monthly than the top workers at NASA. So, we must be careful about what we consider successful or intelligent.

My point is, as I told my daughter this morning, no one can attach a narrative to you that is not for you.

We are what WE think about ourselves, not what others say! It is your job to guard your peace and your worth! No one else but you can determine what that is! You can be told you're gifted, unique, beautiful, intelligent, or needed.... however if you don't believe it, they're useless words.

God made you significant! You're noteworthy because HE said you ARE a masterpiece! Find your superpower and rest in it! Develop it! Allow it to make room for you and your family.

Discover the beauty inside you and bring it forth!

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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

February 14-16

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars
(VFW) Post 2702 & Aux-
iliary
2900 U.S. 72 East
Huntsville, Ala.
12 p.m.

February 15

HBCU College Fair
Union Chapel Family Life
Center
Union Chapel Missionary
Baptist Church
315 Winchester Road
Huntsville, Ala.
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

February 28

Heritage Entertainment:
The 2nd Annual Rocket
City Blues Festival
“Blues Is Alright”
VBC Propst Arena
Huntsville, Ala.
Ticketmaster
8 p.m.

“4 Phase of RNB”

Mars Music Hall/VBC
700 Monroe Street SW
Huntsville, Ala.
Ticketmaster

February 28-March 2

“Tony Rock”
Comedy Standup
Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.

February 21

Concert
Mitch McVicker
Huntsville, Ala.

March 8

19th Annual Rosetta James
Foundation “Honoring
Our Elders” Celebration
and Day Gala
The Jackson Center

February 22

Black History Trivia

6001 Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala. - 12 noon

March 20

Spring Equinox Camping
Retreat: Joy Journey
Camp Edwards, LLC
205 A Water Tank Road
Toney, Ala.
campedwardsllc.com

March 20-30

Rocket City Fair
2195 Jaycee Way
Huntsville, Ala.

March 27-30

5th Annual Women’s Expo
Von Braun Center
www.thewomensexpohsv.
com

March 29

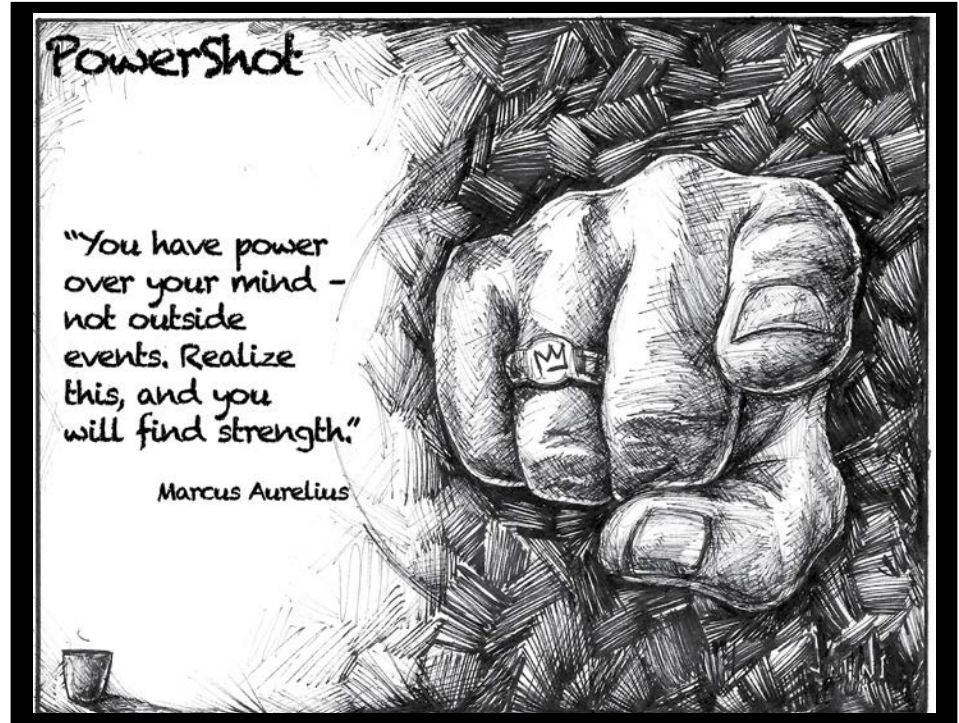
DLC’s 10th Year Anniver-
sary
The Jackson Center
Huntsville, Ala.
6 p.m.

April 10

“Jay Jurden”
Comedy Standup
Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.
Times: Vary

April 11

Comedian Kevin Hart
The Orion Amphitheater
Huntsville, Ala.
kevinhartnation.com



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“We are going to emancipate ourselves from mental slavery because whilst others might free the body, none but ourselves can free the mind.”

- Marcus Garvey



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

Mr. James D. Foster

A native of Birmingham, Ala., James D. Foster (James d foster) is a graduate of Carver High School. He enrolled in Alabama A&M University and earned a degree in history and government. He later completed two graduate degrees, one in urban studies/city planning and the other in personnel anagement. He did further study in business management at the University of Virginia Charlotte, Va. The administrator also served two years in the Army with assignments in both Europe and Vietnam.

He is a retiree from the federal government following some 38-plus years of service, primarily in the human resources area (civilian personnel administration). He also served two years as Redstone military educational officer; however, he actually began his career in the field of electronics-missile radar systems.

His career is punctu-

ated by a two-year tour in Korea 1976-78 as the personnel training liaison officer. He also served a special split assignment between Headquarters Army Materiel Command, Alexandria, Va., and Redstone Arsenal from 1983-88, directing and coordinating the development of three high level employee development programs.

Foster has been the recipient of several awards for his contributions to his professional work environment, community, civic groups and other membership organizations. He is a life member of the Alabama A&M Alumni Association, once serving as president of the local chapter; life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (served as Polemarch and on various committees); life member of Blacks In Government (BIG); and life member of NAACP.

He has tirelessly given of his time and support to the Hunts-



ville Tennis Association, women's athletic programs at Alabama A&M University; various ministries at Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, where he serves as treasurer and acting junior warden of the Vestry; and many other organization programs and initiatives.

His hobbies consist of golf, collecting old music and old music machines, and future restoration of another antique auto. He is married to the former Velma Marie Sales of Huntsville, Ala., and they have three children: Jarvis, a son, and Deidre and Chris, daughters. He is now the proud grandfather of Landon Woodworth Foster.



"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, February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday
after the
Epiphany



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

Second Lesson:

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

GOSPEL:

Luke 6:17-26



Come Discover
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!

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

Admissions Team Promotes AAMU to Students in Southern California

Alabama A&M University recruiters offered on-site acceptance, scholarships, and waived application fees at the 2025 Black College Expo held at Hollywood Park Saturday. Part of Honda Battle of the Bands (HBOB) festivities, the event included more than 200 Colleges and Universities.

One of the first to receive on site acceptance was Kalum Holland from Lancaster, California. "It feels amazing," said Holland. "I'm just thankful and I feel very, very blessed."

"We are offering on

the spot acceptance if they come with their transcripts," said Rae McKinney, tour coordinator with the Office of Admissions.

Kendra Richardson from San Diego, who arrived in AAMU gear, brought her daughter Kennedy Caesar and her niece Erryn Steward to the AAMU booth.

"My daughter Phoenix Caesar is a junior at AAMU and plays soccer for the Bulldogs," said Richardson. "She loves it on The Hill!"

Her niece also received on-site acceptance. "I'm



trying to learn what I can get out of the school and how it can help me develop at a person," said Steward. "I'm thinking about majoring in criminal justice, and I'm really excited."

AAMU Admissions Recruiter and MBA graduate student Danny Crawford says they worked to recruit as many students as

possible. During the expo, Alabama A&M accepted 23 students, and met with hundreds more to share what AAMU has to offer.

"I can tell that LA is really trying to open up their eyes to HBCU's," he said. "I've talked to more sophomores and juniors than I normally do, so I definitely can tell this is something they're trying to expose their students to."

For Kalum Hollands' mother April Holland, AAMU has another connection.

"I have family in Birmingham and I told Kalum, 'Let's look at Alabama A&M. I know it's in Huntsville, but that's just a hop, skip and a jump from Birmingham. Being an HBCU and coming from a Southern California, I want him to have exposure to the Black experience and Black life on a scale that's elevated," she explained. "It's an opportunity for him to see Black people doing well and experience Black culture at its height."

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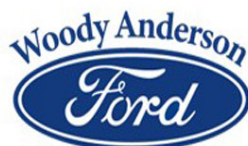


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Introducing ...

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
CLICK HERE
(for Tickets/Sponsorship)
<https://rosettajamesfoundation.swell.gives>

NOTES OF A NATIVE SON

THE EARTH NEVER FORGETS

by afroblastik [John 'Jahni' Moore]

Late last year I had the honor of attending an Equal Justice Initiative and Community Remembrance Project posthumous memorial service and marker dedication for one Robert Mosley. In 1890 Robert Mosley was dragged away from life in Meridianville, Alabama, hung by an enraged mob of over 450 men. This southern son's light was snuffed out in broad daylight.

This act of home-grown terrorism was carried out not by the courts, but by self-appointed executioners, fueled by fear-based hatred and the presumption of guilt. Robert Mosley's age was somewhere between 16 and 19. Basically a child.

I had the challenge and honor of doing a portrait of Mr. Mosley in red clay which I gathered from the area of his murder. Working with red clay gives me the feeling of working with a living substance. It is, as a professor once told me, "rich with the blood of y(our) ancestors."

The red clay that forms this image is not

merely pigment. It is a reminder of the blood shed on this southern landscape for what we now call home. This painting calls us to bear witness—not just to the life of Robert Moseley, but to the countless others whose names have been forgotten in the ashes of social violence.

During the ceremony, the photographer approached me about the portrait and his camera's interaction with the eyes. He explained to me the sensitivity of his AI powered camera - how it could detect human eyes. He went on to say that it was reading the eyes of the portrait as human. I heard him but didn't think anything of it. Several times more in passing he would comment on it, in obvious awe.

Finally, at the end of the ceremony, when he was taking a photo of another gentleman and myself next to the piece, he came over shaking his head and said, "You've got to see this!" he proceeded to tell us that the camera had actually recognized the portrait's eyes be-



fore it had ours. In the camera, I saw the green dots focused in on the eyes of the portrait of Robert Mosley. If I'd had another mindset, it could have come across as eerie. Obviously, to him it was rather fantastical and somewhat unbelievable.

At home that evening, I found myself looking through the photos of the program online. The words on the posterior of the marker read.

With his last words, Robert reportedly objected to the mob's covering his face with a

handkerchief, pleaded, "Let me see one more time in this world."

As I read those words, a chill ran through me. Let me see one more time in this world. And here was this portrait—his likeness, his spirit—being recognized by an artifi-



cial eye meant only for the living. The thought settled deep in my chest. Had I, in some way, created a portal for his sight? Had the clay, the very earth itself, become a vessel for something beyond my understanding?

Sitting in the dim glow of my screen, I stared at the image—still seeing in my mind's eye the green dots locked onto his eyes. It's as if the camera, too, was acknowledging his presence. Maybe it was just technology behaving strangely.

Or maybe, just maybe, Robert Mosley finally got the chance to see in this world one more time. After all, it is A.R.T. ... A Resurrecting Truth.

Gaining an Early Start on DIY and Home Improvement for Spring

(BPT)

- Style is an expression of one's individuality, rooted in the confidence to trust personal instincts and create a world of beauty, rather than pursuing fleeting trends. It's about celebrating all the nuances that define uniqueness - from the fashion one wears and the food they savor, to the way they design their home. True style is singular, impossible to replicate, and utterly incomparable. Brizo® Kitchen & Bath Company exemplifies this credo, setting the standard for style and innovation through every collection.

“At Brizo®, we encourage everyone to embrace their respective style and infuse their space with that same individuality. We're always drawing inspiration from the everyday - from bold designs found in fashion to the organic patterns found in nature. We look to transform these familiar elements into artful and innovative designs that enrich the home and stand the test of time,” says Celine



Kwok Garland, Brizo® Lead Industrial Designer.

According to the Brizo Industrial Design team, 2025 will be defined by trends that transform interiors, emphasizing bold design schemes, rich textures in various forms, and modern industrial aesthetics. These elements come together to help build a space that feels purposefully crafted, effortlessly stylized, and uniquely personal.

Design's Cool Turn

The runways of top designers influence more than just fashion - they shape how individuals express themselves. From the clothes they are drawn to, to the choices made when

designing a space, it all reflects personal style. Building on this influence, upcoming collections that have graced the Spring/Summer 2025 runways show that bold, cool tones are taking over. This can translate into the home by combining cool tones and metal finishes, such as the distinctive Brilliance® Black Onyx finish by Brizo, with warm stone veining or natural wood accents. This approach creates a harmonious blend of contrast and cohesion, infusing the home with runway-inspired sophistication.

Textured Renaissance

Connecting the indoors to nature is a timeless design philosophy, but 2025 will take this concept to a new

level through the incorporation of texture-rich elements. Think irregularities in patterns that evoke topography, like a burl wood side table, or raw, earthen stone pieces. These varied textures and organic design elements create a relaxed yet refined atmosphere, offering a space that mirrors the unparalleled beauty of nature.

Modern Industrial Flair

To add an industrial flair to modern design, blend soft geometrical influences with raw elements and mixed finishes. The Litze® Semi-Professional Faucet by Brizo, featur-

ing intricate knurling and expanded finishes, including the split Matte Black / Brilliance® Luxe Steel, exemplifies this trend by adding dimension to minimalist spaces. Similarly, the Brilliance® Polished Nickel handle found on Jason Wu for Brizo™ Kitchen faucets draws inspiration from the base of Jason Wu's mannequins, while the Matte White finish exemplifies a timeless quality. This design approach balances simplicity with bold industrial touches, empowering homeowners to express their character through modern design and style.

Regardless of the choices made when designing a space, the cornerstone of success is remaining authentic to one's individual style and self-expression. Just like in the world of fashion, interior design offers the freedom to exercise creative license and personal choices, allowing homeowners to reimagine spaces with confidence.



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.

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@hsvblackchamber.org. [VISIT](#)

“Education must not simply teach work - it must teach life.” - W.E.B. Du Bois

PARTNERSHIPS FOR AGING

The Legacy Center Hosts Legislative 'State of Aging' Bus Tour

Photos by J. Saintjones (1/24/2025)



TARCOG Breaks Ground on New \$8 Million Facility

A vacant one-acre lot of Alabama red clay on Corporate Drive in the Mid City District will transform over the next year to feature a new \$8 million, 25,000 square foot office building for TARCOG.

“We are very excited to have reached this point,” said Executive Director Michelle Gilliam Jordan. “It’s taken nearly two years of thoughtful planning, but we believe the building plan is perfect for our needs now and into the future.”

Since 1968, TARCOG has united municipal, county, and state governments and federal agencies to work as one team to improve DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison and Marshall



counties.

TARCOG is made up of member governments of a five-county region and 48 municipalities.

State Rep. Laura Hall (D-Huntsville) said the event was “also about honoring the history and the people who have previously worked at and who continue to take TARCOG into the future.”

On average, TARCOG answers 4,000 calls annually from people in the region who need some form of help with food, medical supplies, prescriptions, caregiver support, etc.

More than 900 TARCOG clients eligible for nursing homes received care at home through the Medicaid Waiver program home

through the Medicaid Waiver program saving Alabama Medicaid nearly \$82 million.

Recent efforts by the TARCOG Economic Development and Plan-

ning staff resulted in \$11.3 million in grants supporting parks to updating sewer lines, developing land use plans, and funding police equipment purchases for

member governments. Jordan said having this new space is going to mean so much to the board, member governments and staff.



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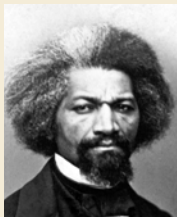
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ON THIS DAY

February 14 is celebrated as the birthday of Frederick Douglass, an abolitionist leader and author who fought for the rights of Black Americans. Douglass Day is a day to honor his memory and legacy, and to celebrate Black history and culture.

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