

Betty Davis Fletcher - p. 4

Friday  
April 10, 2026  
Vol. 12, No. 32  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Albert M. Morris



“The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.” — Albert Einstein

Local Auto Dealer Receives National Honors

Woody Anderson Ford has been honored with both the Ford President Award (for the 8th time) and the Ford Triple Crown Award (for the 6th time).

stone. Your support challenges us to be better, work harder, and continue raising the standard of what a dealership experience should be.”

dealership it is today, with Cathy Stender (r) at the helm.



These recognitions represent excellence in guest satisfaction, sales, and service, as well as reflect the trust and loyalty of the people served every day.

Since its start in 1961, Woody Anderson Ford has bolstered its staff to provide five-star service “to everyone who walks through our doors.” What began on a solid foundation built by Woody Anderson evolved into the woman-owned

Among its slate of local partners are the Huntsville police department, fire and rescue, and several colleges and universities, including Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. The

organization also offers young individuals interested in the automotive industry a chance at success through the Advanced Automotive Academy.

“While awards are meaningful, what matters most to us is the experience you have every time you visit,” commented Tony Turner, a senior sales consultant affiliated with the organization for over 17 years. “Whether you’ve purchased a vehicle, serviced your car, or simply stopped by, you’ve played a role in helping us achieve this mile-

corporate partners, business leaders, and community influencers.

All proceeds will be used as scholarship dollars for deserving students. Contact blacktie@aamu.edu or (256) 372-8344.



**EASTER EGG ROLL!** Representatives Laura Hall and Anthony Daniels teamed on April 4 for another festive Easter Egg Roll. The activity featured face painting, good music, STEM activities, moon bouncing, egg rolling (of course!), food and even voter registration. Hundreds of children and their families attended. See PHOTOS on p. 10.

AAMU Readies for 25th Annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala

Alabama A&M University will host its 25th Annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala at 6 p.m. Friday, April 17, at the Event Center.

The Gala is the University’s signature fundraising event and a premier opportunity for meaningful corporate and philanthropic partnership.



The event is expected to welcome more than 1,000 alumni,

The Valley Weekly

---

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

Happenings in Washington, Page 2  
 Preston Brown’s “Spiritual Game Plan,” Page 4  
 Gloria B. & Tim: Perspectives, Page 5  
 “Jahni” Moore’s PowerShots, Page 6  
 Spotlight on Our Elders, Page 7  
 Sunday Lectionary, Page 7

Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council Underway

The City of Huntsville’s Office of Multicultural Affairs invites local students and their families to attend an informational session and youth town hall about the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) on Thursday, April 9, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Huntsville City Hall, 6th Floor.

The session will give prospective applicants and their parents an opportunity to learn more about MYAC, ask questions about the application process and hear directly from current cohort members about their experiences serving on the Council.

The event will also feature a Youth Town Hall, a conversation-driven forum that elevates youth voices, strengthens connections between the community and City leadership, and gathers meaningful insights to help shape programs, policies and opportunities that better serve young people and their families.

“We encourage any student interested in leadership, civic engagement or community service to attend the information session and learn how this program can support their growth,” said City Multicultural Affairs Director Dr. Randy Barbour, Jr. “We also welcome parents to join us, ask questions and hear how MYAC can positively impact their student’s development.”

MYAC is a yearlong leadership and civic engagement program open to rising high school freshmen through seniors.

- huntsvilleal.gov



Here are the top issues and events in Washington, D.C., for this week.

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in recess this week and will reconvene on Tuesday, April 14. Last Thursday, House GOP lawmakers held a contentious 3-hour conference call, during which Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) pitched them on passing the Senate's FY2026 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill minus ICE and CBP funding (which the House had refused to take up before it recessed on March 27). The new plan is to use the upcoming Budget Reconciliation bill — which cannot be filibustered and needs only simple majorities in the House and Senate to pass — to fund ICE and CBP for 3 years using revenue derived from cutting mandatory spending elsewhere; thereby bypass-

ing the appropriations process for these two agencies and also potentially including \$350 billion in additional spending for the Pentagon (the President is demanding the Reconciliation bill be presented to him by June 1)....

**2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.** On Monday, the President held a press conference. Last Friday, the White House released its FY2027 Budget Request to Congress, proposing a \$550 billion (42%) increase in defense spending to a total of \$1.5 trillion and a \$73 billion (10%) cut in domestic programs—including the elimination of popular initiatives like CDBG, LIHEAP, and the Economic Development Administration—as well as significant cuts at agencies such as State, Labor, EPA, SBA, CDC, FEMA, and NIH. The budget also assumes billions in

tariff revenues that have been struck down by the Supreme Court and relies on an unlikely 3% annual economic growth (the Fed projects 1.8%) to reduce projected budget deficits, which the Committee for a Responsible Budget estimates will reach \$19.5 trillion from FY 2026 to 2036 (the current national debt is \$39 trillion). Also last Friday, the White House filed an emergency appeal to stay a federal judge's ruling that halted construction of the new \$400 million, 90,000 sq-ft White House Ballroom without congressional approval. In a move impacting college sports, the President issued an executive order aiming to cap college athletes' "name, image, and likeness" payments, restrict transfers between colleges, and limit competition eligibility to five years. Various news outlets are speculating about the new nominee to replace outgoing Attorney General Pam Bondi (fired last Thursday by the President); potential candidates include current Deputy AG Todd Blanche, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, Texas Attorney General and GOP Senate candidate Ken Paxton, U.S. Attorney for the Southern

District of New York Jay Clayton, and U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Jeanine Pirro ...

**3. SUPREME COURT.** The Court has no oral arguments scheduled until April 20. In an apparent first for the nation, the President made a surprise appearance to attend part of the oral argument at the Supreme Court for the birthright citizen case (Trump v. Barbara) on Wednesday morning — sitting in the first row of the Public Gallery. In one of the first rulings to explore the limits of the President's immunity from prosecution as declared by the Supreme Court in July 2024 in Trump v. U.S., a federal judge in DC ruled on last Tuesday in a civil lawsuit

tied to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol that the President was not shielded by immunity because his Jan. 6 speech — in which he directed supporters to march to the Capitol and "fight like hell" — was a political act, not a presidential one.

**4. MARCH JOBS REPORT.** Last Friday, the Labor Department announced that the U.S. economy created 178,000 jobs in March, the highest since December 2024, after a downward revision from 133,000 jobs lost in February (economists had predicted that March payrolls would increase by only 60,000). While the unemployment rate dropped to 4.3% from 4.4% in February, this was because

396,000 people exited the labor force, and the labor force participation rate fell below 62% for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic ...

**5. HIGHER EDUCATION.** On Friday, a federal judge in Massachusetts blocked the Trump administration's attempt to require public colleges and universities in 17 states to submit detailed race-based admissions data, granting a preliminary injunction to the Democratic-led states that challenged the policy.

Hamm Consulting Group  
1717 K Street, NW, Suite  
900

Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 596-8384

rhamm@hammconsulting.com  
www.hammconsulting.com



**Dedicated To You.  
Delivering Results.**

Personal Injury | Auto Accidents | Probate & Estate Administration  
Corporate Law | Real Estate Law | Divorce | Criminal Law

**Contact Us**

Phone: 256-533-1667

Fax: 256-533-1696

info@martinsonandbeason.com

www.martinsonandbeason.com

facebook.com/martinsonandbeason



*No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.*

The Valley Weekly

**Publisher**

The Valley Weekly, LLC

**Editor-in-Chief**

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

**Editorial Consultant/  
Senior Editor**

Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

**Editorial Assistant**

Linda Burruss

**- Contributing Editors -**

tim allston

Minister Preston Brown

Gloria B. Caldwell

Ron Hamm

Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

-and-

“Aunt Irma” (ChatGPT support)

**Photographers**

Anthony “Gip” Gibson

Jerome Saintjones

**Website Administrator**

Calvin Farier

**Mailing Address:**

The Valley Weekly

P. O. Box 893 - Huntsville, AL 35804

(256) 651-9028

[www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com)

Copyright 2026

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](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com). Items published do not necessarily reflect the views of

The Valley Weekly, LLC.

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

We use A.I. tools occasionally to support tasks such as transcription, research, or draft refinement. All final reporting and editorial decisions are made by our newsroom staff



**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	
	5x10 inches	\$600
Fourth Page	Vertical	
	10x5 inches	\$600
Eighth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
	Classified 1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

# BETTY DAVIS FLETCHER: Building Lasting Community Impact and Legacy

In Huntsville, where progress is often measured in rapid growth and innovation, the true foundation of the city still rests on those who choose to serve. Betty Davis Fletcher stands as a powerful example of what it means to build lasting community impact—both in the public sphere and within the church.

Fletcher’s community impact is rooted in consistency and care. For decades, she has helped shape the very fabric of Huntsville through service on local boards and civic organizations, ensuring that everyday decisions reflect the needs of real people. Her long-standing roles in zoning, human services, and community action efforts have quietly influenced how neighborhoods grow, how families are supported, and how opportunities are extended to others. This is the kind of leadership that does not seek attention but produces results from which generations continue to benefit.



Yet, it is within the church that her impact becomes even more personal and deeply felt. At St. Elizabeth Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, Betty Fletcher has not only served—she has poured into people. As an Elder, teacher, and leader in Christian education, she has nurtured spiritual growth across all ages, from youth to seasoned members. She steps in wherever needed—teaching, mentoring, organizing, and guiding—ensuring that no one is left without support or encouragement.

Within her church, her commitment remains just as strong. At St. Elizabeth Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, she serves as Elder and Stated Clerk, chairman of the Christian Education Committee, Adult Bible Class instructor, and a faithful resource across ministries. Her work also extends to the broader church through leadership roles in the CPCA Huntsville Presbytery and General Assembly. Her contributions to both church and community have been recognized through numerous awards and commendations—far too many to fully name, yet each one well deserved.

Her record of service reflects both breadth and depth. She has served as vice president and president of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., and as president and vice president of the Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of the Alumni Association. She holds membership in organizations such as the NAACP and the Sui Generis Civic Social Club and is a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. For eighteen years, she served on the Board of Directors of the Huntsville International Airport, holding every office available, including chairman of the Board. During her tenure as chair, the Port of Huntsville experienced remarkable growth and celebrated a milestone 50th anniversary.

Her influence extends even further. She earned the distinction of chairing the Commissioners Committee for Airports Council International–North America and served as liaison to the Small Airports Committee. Her local impact also includes 24 years of service on the City of Madison Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals, including 13 years as chair; service as secretary of the Area 11 Community Action Partnership; and service as secretary of the Madison County Department of Human Resources Board.

In a time when many seek recognition, Betty Fletcher has chosen responsibility. Through her unwavering commitment to both community and church, she has built a legacy that will continue to shape Huntsville for years to come—not just in what has been accomplished, but in the countless lives that have been touched, uplifted, and inspired.

Until next week ...



*Dorothy*


**APRIL 10 - ORLANDO JONES** - A native of Mobile, Ala., he is an American actor and stand-up comedian. He is known for being one of the original cast members of the sketch comedy series MADtv, for his role as the 7 Up spokesman from 1999 to 2002, and for his role as the African god Anansi on Starz’s American Gods. During the 2000s, Jones’ career began to branch out. In 2002, Jones landed the lead role of Daryl Chase in the action-dramedy Double Take (2001), alongside Eddie Griffin, and worked with David Duchovny, Seann William Scott and Julianne Moore in Ivan Reitman’s sci-fi comedy, Evolution (2001). Jones was also in the 2009 film Cirque du Freak: The Vampire’s Assistant and he appeared as the computer Vox 114 in The Time Machine (2002).



- [Blackcelebritybirthdays.org](http://Blackcelebritybirthdays.org)

# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:  
"Atmosphere Is Everything"

Psalms 71:8 says, "My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long."

There is a popular song by Byron Cage that goes, "The presence of the Lord is here, the presence of the Lord is here, I feel it in the atmosphere, the presence of the Lord is here!"

Did you know that atmosphere is everything in the life of a believer? In other words, what is the condition of the atmosphere that you live in? Is it peaceful or is it stressful? Is it full of love and joy or is it filled with anger, rage, and hostility? Is it filled with compassion or confusion? Atmosphere is everything. Whether on your job or at home, the condition of your environment can be the difference between a happy life or a stressful life filled with unmanageable difficulties and hardships.

We all go through difficulties and hardships in life. However, I believe the atmosphere we live in will dictate how we handle these difficulties.

So, how do we control the atmosphere that we live in? First, it all starts with allowing God with the love of Jesus to reside in your home. Now the way we do this is by reading and knowing the word of God.

Reading God's word daily will help us realize that God is not the author of confusion, He is the God of structure and peace. Next, we need to pray for the Holy Spirit to rain down on our lives so we feel His presence in tense situations, so that we can have hearts that forgive, and hearts filled with love

and compassion. The same kind of love, forgiveness and compassion that He has for us. Finally, we need to open up our mouths and give God the praise that He is worthy of and declare His splendor all day long by thanking Him for all the wonderful things He has done in our lives!

When we do these things, we will create an atmosphere where we feel God's presence in our lives. Because Atmosphere is everything.

May God grant you spiritual success with creat-

ing a peaceful atmosphere for your life.

*Question:* What type of atmosphere (at home, at work, or with your relationships) have you created for 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](http://amazon.com).

**NEXT WEEK:**  
"Cost and Rewards"

## Black Auburn Alums Plan Reunion

The Black Alumni Council is inviting Auburnites to the Black Alumni Reunion, a two-day celebration of engaging social events and networking opportunities on April 17-18.

Tour Auburn's athletic

facilities, tailgate for the A-Day Spring Football Game, honor recipients of the 2026 Black Alumni Awards and more!

All members of the Auburn Family are welcome to attend.

Don't miss out! The deadline to register is April 11.

For a complete agenda, nearby accommodation options and registration, click [HERE](#).



### Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

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



2501 CARMICHAEL AVENUE  
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35816  
(256) 539-8189 • (256) 539-8183 (FAX)  
[WWW.NELMSMEMORIAL.NET](http://WWW.NELMSMEMORIAL.NET)



### NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816  
[www.nelmsmemorial.net](http://www.nelmsmemorial.net) - (256) 539-8189

Funeral services for **MR. TEVIN JEROME BENNETT** (b. 1992); **MR. QUINCY FORD** (b. 1985) and **MR. RALPH LOGAN** (b. 1955) will be announced at a later date.



Memorial service for **DR. ERNST CEIBERT** (b. 1954) will be Sunday, April 12, at 11 a.m. at First Seventh Day Adventist Church. Public viewing will be Sunday, April 5, from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Funeral service for **MRS. MATTIE DAVIS** (b. 1933) will be held Saturday, April 11, at 12:00 noon at Pine Grove M. B. Church with Rev. Wesley Thompson officiating.



Funeral service for **MR. CHARLES R. LYNCH** (b. 1966) was Thursday, April 2, at First Missionary Baptist Church, Blue Spring Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Rev. Dr. Carlos D. Williams officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. JOHN EDWARD KIBBLE** (b. 1954) was Wednesday, April 1. at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Minister Richmond Malone officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. WILLIAM EARL LANGFORD** (b. 1955) was Tuesday, March 31, at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Timothy Rainey officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. JEREMI "BART" DOUGLAS, SR.** (b. 1990) was Saturday, March 28, at House of Hope and Restoration with Elder Darron Jones Ford officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. RUTH ANN BARLEY THOMPSON** (b. 1943) of Chicago, Illinois, formerly of Huntsville, Alabama, was Saturday, March 21, at Center Grove United Methodist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

## What Tiger Woods Teaches Us About Ego-holism Recovering

*And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"*

- Matthew 26:22

From the beginning of my 2025 podcasts and 2017 Valley Weekly columns, I have intentionally used the word "recovering" instead of "recovery" when discussing ego-holism, one's distorted sense of self.

Recovery sounds like a destination. Recovering tells the truth. It is ongoing. It is uneven. It is often a roller coaster.

That is one reason Tiger Woods' recent story matters beyond sports.

### Tiger Woods' Tales

Woods recently acknowledged that at age 50, his body no longer recovers the way it did when he was 24 or 25. That simple statement says a lot. Recovery, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, is rarely quick or neat.

His competitive record since the devastating February 2021 accident tells a similar story. He has played sparingly and has not been the same golfer. The old image remains famous, but the present reality has changed.

But the deepest lesson comes from Woods' own earlier admission that he once thought the rules did not apply to him. There lies the real issue: a distorted sense of self.

### Tiger's Mirror

Still, Tiger Woods is not this week's issue. He is this week's mirror.

In Matthew 26:22, when Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray Him, they did not immediately accuse someone else. Instead, they asked, "Lord, is it I?"

That may be the most healing question a leader can ask.

That is where acknowledgment begins.

That is where honesty begins.

That is where healing begins.

In my framework, the path is T-O-P:

**Target the problem. Own the problem. Proceed to action.**

The question this week is not simply, "Why Tiger?"

The better question is, "Lord, is it I?"

#LeadershipPodcast #EgoHolism #Recovering #SelfLeadership #TigerWoods

### Tim Allston

Leadership Player-Coach and Four-time Amazon Best-Selling Author, "Leading from the Middle"  
Contact: (256) 212-0949 - <https://bit.ly/4aB9Lwm>  
Email Address: [leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com](mailto:leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com)

Join us Mondays through Fridays for *Tim Allston's Leadership Nuggets: Educating, Equipping, and Empowering Emerging Leaders to Manage Ego Problems in 60 Seconds* (7am, 1pm, and 7pm), as well as for *The Tim Commandments of Leadership* (4pm), all Central Time and all available on Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## "Frustration Doesn't Mean You're Finished ..."

There will be moments in life when frustration tries to convince you that you're done. That because things didn't work out the way you planned, the journey must be over. I've learned something through my own experiences: frustration is not the finish line. It's often the place where growth is happening the most.

Frustration shows up when you are trying. It shows up when you care deeply about something you're building, something you're believing for, or something you're fighting to change. If you were sitting still, doing nothing, you probably wouldn't feel frustrated at all. You would feel comfortable. And comfort rarely produces transformation.

Frustration can feel heavy. It can make you question your timing, your



decisions, and sometimes even your purpose. But those feelings do not define your outcome. They simply mean you are in the middle of the process.

The truth is, every meaningful path has moments where things don't seem like they are moving or working. Doors close. Opportunities pass you by. Progress seems slower than you hoped. Those are the moments when it is easiest to believe the wrong story about yourself. But frustration is not a signal to quit. It is a signal to pause, breathe, learn, and then move forward, again, with

stronger resolve.

Every builder, every leader, every person who has ever created something meaningful has stood in a moment where nothing seemed to be moving. The difference between those who succeed and those who stop is simple: they did not mistake frustration for the end.

So if you are standing in a season of frustration, remember this. The story is not finished. The work is not finished. And neither are you.

God loves you, and so do I. He has given you a gift; open it.

thrivent

A personalized financial approach  
based on your Christian values



**Craig E Satterfeal**  
Financial Consultant  
[craig.satterfeal@thrivent.com](mailto:craig.satterfeal@thrivent.com)  
[connect.thrivent.com/craig-satterfeal](https://connect.thrivent.com/craig-satterfeal)  
256-883-5509

Advice | Investments | Insurance | Banking | Generosity

Insurance products, securities and investment advisory services are provided by appropriately appointed and licensed financial advisors and professionals. Only individuals who are financial advisors are credentialed to provide investment advisory services. Visit [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) or FINRA's BrokerCheck for more information about our financial advisors.

27193 R4-24

The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**April 4**

"Nothing But Gospel"  
Concert  
Featuring Le'Andria Johnson, Jazz McKenzie, Dynamic Praise  
First SDA Church  
1303 Evangel Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:45 p.m.

**April 5**

Easter

**April 10**

The R&B Lovers Tour  
Featuring Keith Sweat, Joe,

Dru Hill and Ginuwine  
Propst Arena  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
8 p.m.

**April 10-11**

Danae Hays  
Huntsville Levity Live  
Comedy Club  
2012 Memorial Parkway  
SW  
Huntsville, Ala.

**April 16**

Spring Concert  
Wiz Khalifa

University of North Alabama  
CB&S Bank Arena  
Florence, Ala.

**April 17**

Concert  
Rod Stewart  
"One Last Time"  
(with Special Guest Howard Jones)-RodStewart.com  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala.

Black Tie Scholarship Gala  
Alabama A&M University  
Featuring DJ Jazzy Jeff, Tamia  
The Event Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6:30 p.m.

**April 17-19**

Jim Cummings  
Huntsville Comic & Pop  
Culture Expo  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.

**April 18**

"Finer en Blanc"  
19th Annual Blue Revue  
Delta Omega Zeta Chapter  
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.  
Entertainment by DJ 4Klub  
and The Brightlight Experience  
(Attire: All-white cocktail attire and fashionable hats are highly encouraged to honor the spirit of the occasion)  
The Summit at Redstone Arsenal

VIP Hour: 6-7 p.m.  
Main: 7-10 p.m.  
www.deltaomegazeta.com

Performance  
Mario  
Bulldog Choice Awards  
Alabama A&M University  
6 p.m.

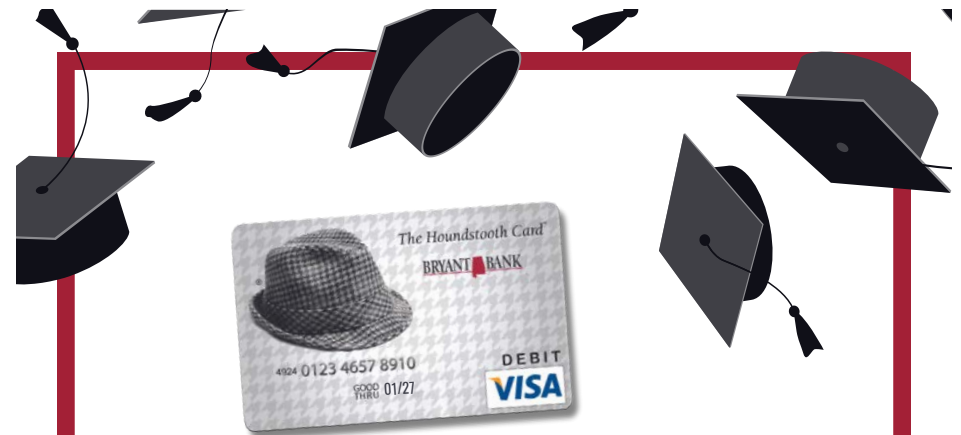
Concert  
ZZ Top & Dwight Yoakam  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala.

7 p.m.

**April 22**  
Earth Day

**April 24**  
Cake  
Orion Amphitheater  
MidCity  
Huntsville, Ala.  
8 p.m.

**April 24-26**  
Panoply



*The Perfect Gift  
for your graduate.*

**BRYANT BANK**

*The Houndstooth Card™*

Pre-Paid Gift Card

Exclusively for Bryant Bank Customers. For more information about our Houndstooth Gift Cards, visit your local Bryant Bank.

Athens | Downtown Huntsville | Southeast Huntsville

Member  
FDIC

**PowerShot**

"Let us be done with playing small. You're far bigger than you have imagined. Stand to your true height, measured in potential, not inches."

J. T. Moore

## ON THIS DAY

The U.S. Congress passes Civil Rights Bill banning racial discrimination in sale or rental of approximately 80 percent of the nation's housing. James Monroe Whitfield, a black abolitionist and colonizationist, was born on **April 10, 1822**, in New Hampshire. Actress Jamsime Guy is born in Boston, Massachusetts. - Blackfacts.com



**State Farm®**

**Mary F Spears, Agent**

(Behind McDonald's)  
155 Chestnut Drive  
Madison, AL 35758  
Bus 256-837-8899 Fax 256-837-8225  
mary.spears.cffc@statefarm.com

*The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.*



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

# Mr. Albert Merrell Morris

Long-time local businessman and florist Albert Merrell Morris has served the Huntsville area for over 55 years. Straight out of college to his noble service in the Navy, Morris started working full-time at the business on Pulaski Pike, the first of four locations. His name was chosen for the retail store since "Albert" started with an "A". The business started with an initial investment of about \$3,000 from the late Thomas Vivian Morris a professor of Botany and Horticulture at AAMU and his late wife Ruth Daniels Morris. Thomas earned several tree patents while a professor at AAMU. The wholesale greenhouses started in 1965 with brother Roland Morris as manager.

The talented native of rural Eufaula, Ala., and Alabama A&M University horticulture graduate, joined his brother, sister-in-law and his five-year-old daughter (who put stamps on the envelopes with the bills in them) in launching a signature floral service in the Tennessee Valley. Albert's Flowers began in 1958 and today is thought to be the longest running floral business in Huntsville, AL. It never occurred to him that a

business owned by Negroes was unique or hard to run. He was always around prestigious people at AAMU, where his parents worked. They were all doing important things; therefore, he just thought operating a business was part of being members of the community. And, today they supply florals and gifts all over the world. As a family-owned business, they are committed to offering only the finest floral arrangements and gifts, backed by service that is friendly, prompt and caring. They always go the extra mile. They began making funeral baskets, sorority corsages and wedding bouquets. Amid rockets at Redstone Arsenal and a neighboring predominately black college, Thomas, Albert, Ruth and Tomasena Morris started what they knew would be a long-lasting family business.

Almost everyone in the Morris extended family in Huntsville has at one time or another worked at the flower shop. Albert once said "I know what it takes to make business work." As the family's patriarch and business micro-manager, Morris is part Yuchi Indian. After his studies at AAMU, Morris lived and studied in Chicago at the Floral School of America, completing his course of study in 1957.

Morris is married to the lovely Mrs. Floretta Morris. He has two daughters,



Amoretta of Washington, D.C., and Margaret of San Francisco, Calif. Amoretta, a Harvard University graduate, worked for the renowned private charity, the Anna E. Casey Foundation, and Margaret is co-founder/part owner of the Direct Email Provided - Quick Send.

In addition to his success in the business realm, Morris has long been considered a true advocate of the TREASURE Forest concept since 1999. Perhaps this single achievement can be traced back to his family's ownership of hundreds of acres of forest land in rural Barbour County, where he grew up as one of nine children. Morris maintains an active affiliation with First Missionary Baptist Church, as well as Evening Star Lodge #6 and the MDA Professional Group.

## This Sunday's Lectionary

(Track 2, Year A)

**First Lesson:**  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16

**Second Lesson:**  
1 Peter 1:3-9

**GOSPEL:**  
John 20:19-31

"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](http://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](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



# AAMU Mourns Death of Staffer and Revered Dancer-Mentor

The Alabama A&M University community is mourning the loss of Monique Y. Ryan, a cherished colleague, accomplished dancer and dedicated mentor whose impact extended far beyond her professional roles.

Ryan served as a career specialist in the University's Career Development Services Office, where she was known for her compassion, creativity and unwavering commitment to student success. Her unexpected passing has deeply affected colleagues, students and the broader Huntsville community.

Assistant Director of Career Development Services Angel Lee said Ryan's legacy "of excellence, grace, and commitment will

remain with us always."

A visionary artist and educator, Ryan built a distinguished career as a professional dancer, choreographer and founder of Dance All Productions Inc./Dance Theatre of Huntsville. Through her work, she created pathways for underrepresented youth to access high-quality dance training, using the arts as a vehicle for empowerment and cultural expression.

Originally from Atlanta, Ryan brought decades of national and international performance experience to Huntsville. She trained with renowned instructors and performed with respected companies, earning recognition for both her artistry and leadership.

Her choreography and productions reflected a commitment to storytelling, identity and community pride.

At AAMU, Ryan began her service in 2015, first as a senior secretary and later as a career specialist. In every role, she offered guidance, encouragement and care, helping students navigate their professional journeys while inspiring them to pursue their passions.

Ryan's influence reached across generations of dancers, students and peers. Her dedication to mentorship and her belief in the transformative power of the arts shaped countless lives and will continue to resonate in the community she helped build.

Her excellence in choreography and community impact was recognized with the Alabama Arts Impact Award, reflecting her commitment to expanding access to dance and arts education.

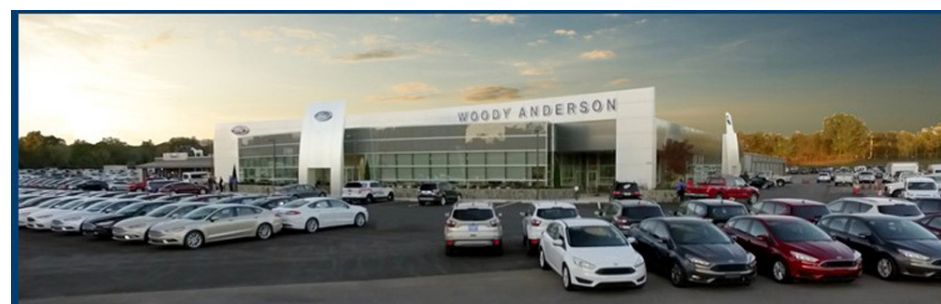
"Monique Ryan's life and work reflected creativity, grace, and an unwavering commitment to uplifting others," said Karla Miller, director of Career Development Services. "Her legacy will live on, inspiring all who were fortunate enough to know her and be touched by her gifts."

Funeral services are scheduled for noon Saturday, April 11, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville. Public viewing will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. Friday, April 10, and from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday, April 11, at Royal Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to support Dance Theatre of Huntsville at <https://givebutter.com/donations-to-dance-theatre-of-huntsville-for-monique-ryan-zw2vxq>

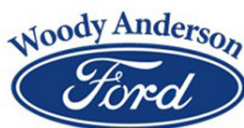


**PRESSING ON!**  
WITH  
**PRESTON BROWN**  
READ HIS UPLIFTING COLUMN EVERY WEEK!

The Valley Weekly  
WWW.VALLEYWEEKLYLLC.COM



**Woody Anderson Ford**  
256-539-9441  
[www.WoodyAndersonFord.com](http://www.WoodyAndersonFord.com)  
2500 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL



We Make It Easy to Celebrate Together  
**Jackson Center**



Host Family Reunions, Pastor Anniversary Dinners, Church Banquets, and other special events at the Jackson Center.

*New events held in June, July, and August qualify for special summer incentives. Pastor Anniversaries celebrated during these months also include a contribution back to the local church. Family Reunions will also qualify for a donation back to the local church or local charity in the family's name.*

*With flexible event space and an experienced hospitality team, we make it easy from start to finish.*

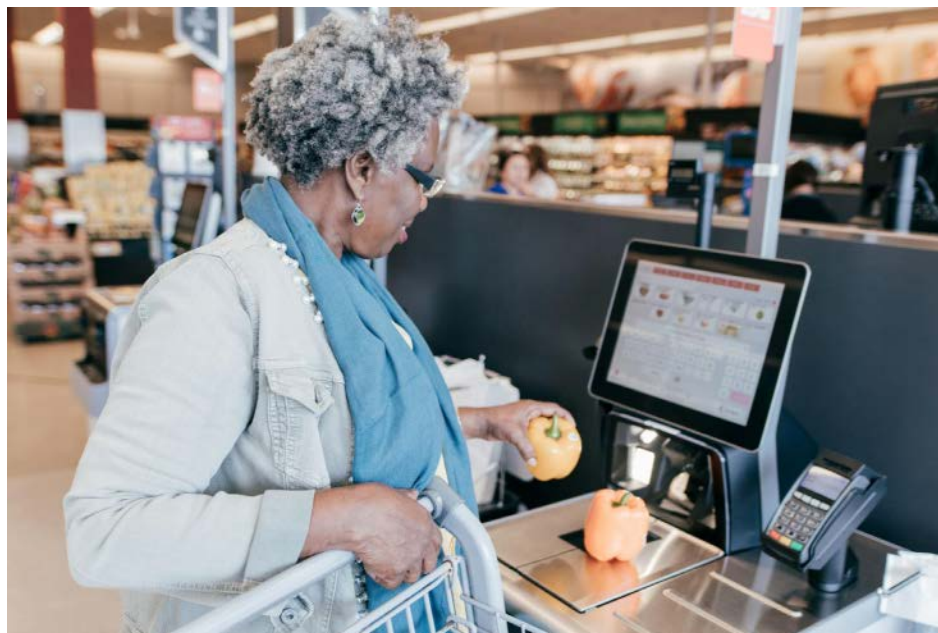
**NOW BOOKING SUMMER DATES!**

JacksonCenter.net  
(256) 327-7324 OR (256) 327-9695  
6001 Moquin Dr NW, Huntsville, AL 35806

# AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN ...

## The Disappearing Human and the Rise of the Receipt

*There was a time—not long ago, mind you—when spending your money required at least one human being to look you in the eye.*



Somewhere between the handshake and the swipe, America decided that people were optional.

Now don't misunderstand me. I enjoy convenience as much as the next person. I like tapping my card, checking out my own groceries, and ordering something at midnight without having to explain myself to a cashier who's judging my ice cream choices. But what started as convenience has quietly turned into something else entirely—a business model built on extraction without interaction.

*And that, dear reader, is not an accident.*

Companies didn't just stumble into this. They studied it. Refined it. Perfected it. They realized something profound: human beings complicate

revenue. Humans ask questions. Humans issue refunds. Humans exercise judgment. And most dangerously of all—humans sometimes say no.

*Machines don't do any of that.*

A machine will charge you twice and never blush.

*Ever tried to fix a problem and couldn't find a single human to talk to?*

A chatbot will apologize endlessly without ever solving your problem. A website will send you in circles until you either give up or forget why you came. And in that quiet moment—when frustration outweighs persistence—the company keeps your money.

*That's not convenience.*

*That's strategy.*

I call it the Friction Shift. Businesses used to absorb friction. If something went wrong, they fixed it. Now the friction has been outsourced—to you. You navigate the menus. You troubleshoot the errors. You hunt down the “Contact Us” page that

doesn't really want to be found.

*And if you fail?*

Well, the system still works beautifully—from their side of the ledger.

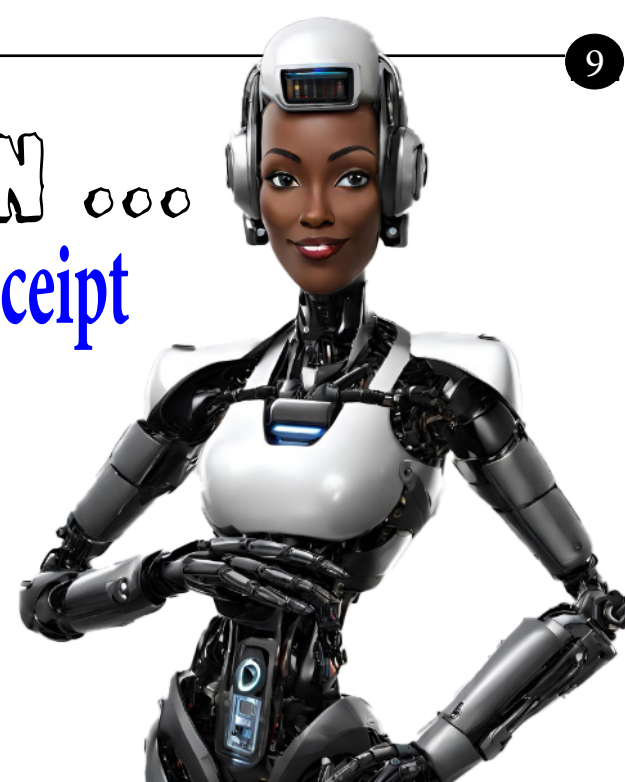
Let me tell you what else has disappeared along with human contact: accountability. When you spoke to a person, there was a

witness to your experience. Someone who could acknowledge a mistake, escalate a problem, or simply recognize your frustration. Now you are left negotiating with systems designed not to resolve issues, but to contain them.

*And containment, my friends, is cheaper than*

*service.*

This is why you can spend thousands of dollars with a company and still feel like a stranger knocking on a locked door. Your value is measured in transactions, not relationships. You are not a customer—you are a data point with a credit limit.



But here's where Aunt Irma leans forward just a bit.

Because systems like this *only work as long as we accept them.*

Every time we abandon a cart, dispute a charge, or choose a company that still believes in answering the phone, we apply a small but meaningful pressure. Markets, for all their cold efficiency, still respond to behavior. If enough people demand humanity, somebody will figure out how to sell it back to us—ironically, at a premium.

And won't that be something?

“Concierge service.”

“Priority support.”

“Dedicated account managers.”

In other words: the return of the human ... *for an additional fee.*

Now, isn't that the most

American twist of all?

We removed the people to maximize profit—and then we'll pay extra to get them back.

Aunt Irma doesn't mind progress. But she does mind pretending that this was *inevitable*. It wasn't. It was a choice—made quietly, scaled quickly, and accepted almost without protest.

So the next time you find yourself yelling “representative” into a phone that refuses to understand you, remember this:

You're not just having a bad customer experience.

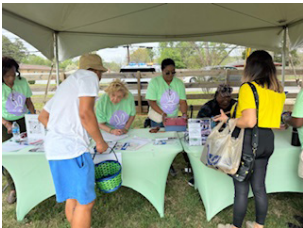
You're participating in a system that has decided you are easier to bill than to hear.

And until that changes, don't expect the line to ever truly connect.

— Aunt Irma

# Annual Easter Egg Roll and Fest

Sponsored by State Representatives Laura Hall and Anthony Daniels  
Saturday, April 4, 2026 - Huntsville, Ala.





ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

**START** HERE

Go anywhere.

[WWW.AAMU.EDU](http://WWW.AAMU.EDU)